



2010 Upcoming Events

• Preparedness Calendars and Kits with Boys and Girls Club

JANUARY- Emergency Management is partnering with Together Prepared and Boys and Girls Club to hand out preparedness kits and calendars. Items for the kits were donated by local businesses. One hundred (100) third and fourth graders who are part of the Boys and Girls Club and whose families would most benefit from access to a kit already assembled, will be the intended recipients.

• Weather 101

MARCH 11- Annual Lawrence program sponsored by Douglas County Emergency Management with a guest speaker from the National Weather Service in Topeka. The session features a discussion of severe weather safety and information concerning severe thunderstorm development with some advanced topics. This program is FREE and open to the public.

• Severe Weather Symposium

MARCH 20- Designed to continue training and expand knowledge of storm spotters in advanced storm development, spotter safety, and the importance of spotter reports. The presentations will include incredible storm videos; experts in the field from the National Weather Service and the private sector, and will conclude with a round table discussion, including local TV meteorologists. Cost to be determined and open to the public.

• Spring CERT Class

APRIL/MAY (tentatively)- This nationally certified course teaches individuals to function as a member of a team to perform essential life safety actions while awaiting the arrival of professional emergency first responders— see story page two (2) for more information. This is a twenty four (24) hour course, and is FREE and open to the public.

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Douglas County

Emergency Management

111 E. 11th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044
785.532.5259 ph
785.832.5101 fax
tsmith@douglas-county.com

"Ensuring Douglas County cities and citizens are disaster aware and disaster prepared."

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2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Douglas County Emergency Management

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What Is Emergency Management?

Douglas County is subject to a number of potential natural disasters such as fires, flooding, heat waves, tornadoes and winter storms. There are also hazards from nuclear, biological, or chemical accidents— as well as terrorist acts.

The Emergency Management Agency in Douglas County works daily to ensure the proper means exist not only for government, private or response agencies; but also for individuals to be able to plan, prepare, respond to and recover from, any emergency/disaster that may occur. This is reflective of the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

In working with various community partners, we strive to ensure all cities and citizens are disaster aware and disaster prepared.

From the Director, TERI SMITH

As 2009 comes to a close, Douglas County Emergency Management presents its annual report encompassing agency activities over the past year. This report represents a comprehensive look at the agency, its personnel and its activities in support of the emergency management program.

In the coming year and in keeping with the goals set in our Strategic Plan, we will continue to work on ways to improve our ability to prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate against all disasters that may impact the people of Douglas County. As we move into 2010, Douglas County Emergency Management will continue to review our plans, conduct exercises and assist those impacted by disasters with proactive recovery and mitigation activities.

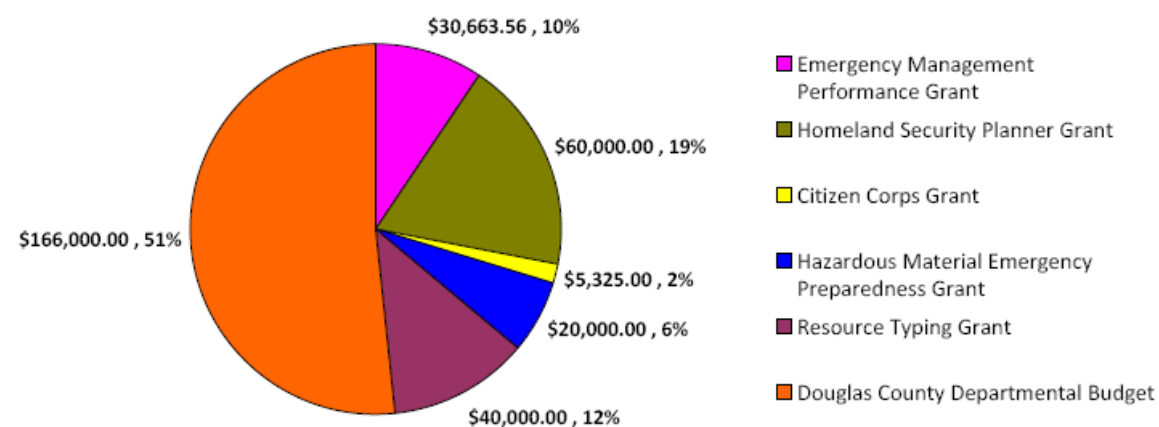
With the threat of winter weather, flooding, tornadoes, and public health emergencies, it is critical that all citizens make a plan, have a kit and stay informed!

Having a family or business disaster plan in place year round will enable everyone to be prepared for any and all disasters that affect Douglas County. If those of us who have the means to prepare for disasters take these simple steps we can assist those who do not have the financial or physical ability to prepare themselves.

Although 2009 gave us a break, it is important that we not become complacent. We must always remember that many times the most damaging disasters come about when they are least expected.

As one reads this report, they will see the tremendous effort and work exhibited by emergency management staff on a daily basis to carry out the emergency management program for Douglas County. I am extremely proud of the quality of work performed by staff and impressed by their dedication and professionalism.

2009 Emergency Management FUNDING SOURCES



With this budget and an additional AmeriCorps VISTA Grant that provided Douglas County Emergency Management with a full-time staff member, the department was able to complete three (3) plans, support outside agency operations through the use of the EOC and MCV, fulfill yearly requirements, and conduct and/or sponsor numerous trainings and exercises for local response agencies and the public to further their mission of cities and citizens being disaster aware and disaster prepared.



DOUGLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

111 E. 11TH STREET • LAWRENCE, KS 66044 • (785) 832-5259 • FAX (785) 832-5101

[HTTP://DOUGLAS-COUNTY.COM/DEPTS/EM/EM_HOME.ASPX](http://DOUGLAS-COUNTY.COM/DEPTS/EM/EM_HOME.ASPX)

Awards, Honors & Nominations

KEMA Awards-
 On September 17th, two Douglas County Emergency Management Staff members received state awards from the Kansas Emergency Management Association (KEMA) at their annual conference held in Topeka.

Sheila Meggison, Douglas County Emergency Management Planner received the state organization's award for "New Emergency Management Professional of the Year."

Douglas County's own Emergency Management Director, Teri Smith, was awarded Kansas's "Emergency Management Professional of the Year." Teri has been with Douglas County Emergency Management for 13 years. Both recipients were acknowledged at the banquet during the KEMA conference.

Also designated by the Kansas Emergency Management Association is state-level certification for Emergency Managers. Jillian Rodrigue, Assistant Director of Douglas County Emergency Management, received her Kansas Certified Emergency Manager, also at the annual KEMA conference this past September.

IAEM Awards-
 In addition to "Emergency Management Professional of the Year," Teri Smith was awarded the prestigious international-level certification for Emergency Managers. Teri received her Certified Emergency Manager at the annual International Association of Emergency Manager's (IAEM) conference held in Orlando, FL in October of this year.



Douglas County CERT

Twenty-five (25) new graduates in Douglas County. Nine (9) becoming new Emergency Management volunteers!

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a national program through the Citizen Corps Council designed to help individuals prepare for, and respond to disasters such as tornadoes, fires and other major emergencies. The goal is for emergency personnel to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, and/or workplaces in basic response skills. CERT members are then integrated into the emergency response capability for that area through applying the basic response and organizational skills they've learned.

Each year, Douglas County Emergency Management offers CERT training to the community. While classes have been held in all

four incorporated cities of the County, this past year they were held in Baldwin City and Lawrence. Each course is twenty-four (24) hours over an eight (8) week period, and offers training in areas such as: preparedness, medical operations, basic fire suppression, search and rescue, terrorism, and disaster psychology; ending with a test scenario. Through both classes, the existing CERT volunteers put in 267.5 hours of help with the course instruction and scenario.

Baldwin City's course was held in the spring, and had thirteen (13) participants. Baldwin City Fire Department graciously offered their station for the location of the final scenario. Of the participants, nine

(9) graduated, and two became volunteers with Emergency Management.

The second class, held in Lawrence, had thirty-five (35) people sign up for the class. New to this CERT training, was a final scenario conducted as a full-scale exercise with Lawrence Douglas County Fire Medical (LDCFM). This exercise attracted media attention from local and Kansas City television stations. This scenario was held at LDCFM's training center, and was a first time partnership attempted between the two agencies in an exercise like this, and what a success! Thanks to everyone involved for helping us offer a great CERT program to our community.

Three New Safe Rooms For Schools In Douglas County

Emergency Management, in conjunction with Kansas Division of Emergency Management and other various community partners, is proud to announce USD 348 and USD 491 were awarded grants for safe room construction totaling \$4,592,662.00 with cost shares from the recipients.

Within USD 348 of Baldwin City, the new media room of the Baldwin Elementary Primary Center will double as a safe room. This facility will house 640 students and staff; and will total 4,500 sq. feet. The grant of \$603,992.00 was approved through FEMA Region VII office.

Also part of USD 348, the Performing Arts Center at Baldwin City Junior/Senior High will also function as a safe room, accommodating 1800 students and faculty and will be

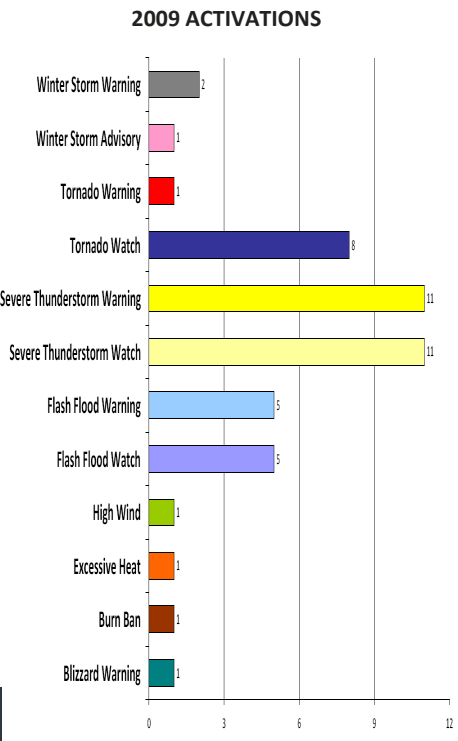
approximately 16,100 sq. feet. The grant of \$3,422,063.00 was approved by the National FEMA office in Washington, D.C.

USD 491 of Eudora received a grant totaling \$566,677.00, approved by FEMA Region VII for the Eudora Elementary School to house approximately 800 students and staff. The school opened in the fall of 2009.

All three safe rooms will be built in accordance with FEMA 361 guidelines, and provide "near-absolute protection" from extreme-wind events. Near-absolute protection implies that based on current knowledge of tornadoes, the occupants of a safe room built according to the guidance will have a very high probability of being protected from injury or death.



This Year's Severe Weather Activations



One of Emergency Management's daily operations is to monitor severe weather that may affect Douglas County and its citizens. When these events may threaten the area, staff and duty officers "activate" the Emergency Management Operations Center in order to coordinate response and recovery. Activation can be done on several levels:

- Level 1- Watch** When conditions indicate an event/disaster may occur. Emergency Management staff will operate the EOC at this level.
- Level 2- Partial Activation** Limited Emergency Support Function (ESF) activation, normally following an event/disaster.
- Level 3- Full Activation** 24 hour EOC staffing. Primary and lead ESFs will be notified. State and Federal assistance may be requested.

This year, Douglas County had thirty-two (32) activations staffed with Emergency Management staff and duty officers. Of those, eight (8) were at the second level where SKYWARN spotters were sent out to various locations in the County in order to offer more direct, real-time information that aids in response efforts. ACT members also report additional information to the Emergency Management Operations Center.

With the potential for threatening events existing daily, our office and staff are always prepared individually and ready to respond within the community. We want to remind citizens how important it is for everyone to:

- Make a Plan
- Have a 72-hour Kit
- Stay Informed

Department Staff

- Teri Smith, CEM Director
- Jillian Rodrigue, Assistant Director
- Sheila Meggison, Planner
- Alexandria Norman, Community Preparedness
- Stephanie Nelson, Intern
- Cindy Schmidt, Administrative Secretary

Duty Officers

- Mark Cairns, Duty Officer
- Kate Dinneen, Duty Officer
- Bob Newton, Duty Officer, County Public Information Officer

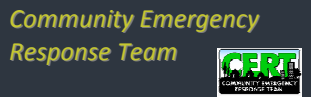
Mobile Command Vehicle

- Marvin Wiedeman, Jr., Mobile Command Vehicle Manager
- Will Shockley, Mobile Command Vehicle Assistant Manager

VOLUNTEER Opportunities



The Auxiliary Communications Team (ACT) volunteers are licensed amateur radio operators who provide adjunct support through alternative communications capabilities to local governmental units in Douglas County, Kansas through our Emergency Management Department before, during or after emergency or disaster situations.



Douglas County's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a program designed to help individuals prepare for and respond to emergencies/disasters. The goal is for emergency personnel to train members of the community in basic response skills, so if first responders are overwhelmed in a disastrous event, CERT members may integrate into the response capability and help save and sustain lives until help arrives.



SKYWARN volunteers are authorized as weather spotters who report severe weather activity occurring in Douglas County, Kansas. Emergency Management offers these volunteers specialized weather spotting training January through March each year.

Please visit our website to apply!
http://douglas-county.com/depts/em/em_home.aspx