

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CERT

Staff and volunteers taught a weekend Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Course. 11 graduates learned basic first aid, preparedness, basic search and rescue, fire safety, disaster psychology and more.

VOLUNTEERS

On top of their annual support of the Great Kaw Adventure Race and Walktober, volunteers supported the Red Cross "Sound the Alarm" event, Elite 8 and Final Four operations, and local emergency exercises. They participated in numerous internal and external training opportunities including Stop The Bleed. Volunteers gave over 1,400 hours of service to DCEM and the community.

Volunteer Awards:

Outstanding ACT: Ken Filardo
Outstanding CERT: Willard Epling
Outstanding Skywarn: Mark Randel
Outstanding Overall: Will Shockley

PURSUIT TO PREPAREDNESS

Over 130 basic preparedness kits were given to Douglas County children in Lecompton following a severe weather safety presentation during the 8th Annual Pursuit to Preparedness campaign. We are grateful for the continued community support from businesses and organizations.

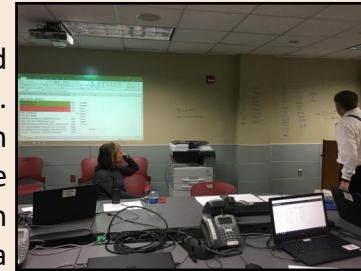
IN THE COMMUNITY

Community outreach remains a vital part of our mission. Staff fulfilled this with several presentations and training on severe weather, preparedness, mitigation and recovery; COOP and business plan reviews; mentoring opportunities; participation in the Community Safety Fair and more. Until Help Arrives, was a new class successfully shared with the community. Staff is available to participate in safety fairs, give presentations, conduct walk-throughs and review event plans.

ACTIVATIONS AND EVENTS

EOC Activations

The EOC was activated several times in 2018. Staff activated on March 2nd with ESF-4 Fire representatives to aid in resource support for a large grassfire in the 1300 Block of N 1100 Road. This was a new process for activating individual ESFs.



Later in March, the EOC was activated in support of the NCAA Elite 8 and Final Four operations. A Blizzard over Thanksgiving weekend prompted a limited ESF activation.

Severe Weather Events

DCEM activates for any threat of severe weather to provide warning and notification and conduct any needed damage assessment.

- June 2 storms caused damage to trees, power lines and some structures, particularly across Lawrence.
- June 11 storms damaged the main transmission lines into Baldwin. Large hail up to 1.5 inches was also reported.
- June 20 storms lead to downed and uprooted trees as well as some damage to homes.
- July 19 storms packed measured winds of 89 mph again causing power outages and downed trees.

Mobile Command Vehicle Activations

The MCV and staff were activated for 187 hours to support the Douglas County Fair, two full scale exercises, first responder training, and responders during a hotel fire.



TRAINING & EXERCISES

Realistic emergency scenarios, or exercises, highlight successes and areas of improvement. This helps agencies gain experience, identify training needs or changes to procedures, and makes the community better prepared for emergencies.

EM Staff hosted and participated in 79 exercises, drills, and operational tests. Scenarios included fire, radiological, mass fatality, infectious disease, hazardous materials accidents, severe weather, dam and pipeline emergencies, critical infrastructure and accountability.

Disaster Scenarios

Two full scale exercises were conducted using Hazardous Materials and Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grants. The first exercise, at Lawrence Municipal Airport, was an expansion of an earlier exercise. Over 80 individuals and volunteer actors participated.

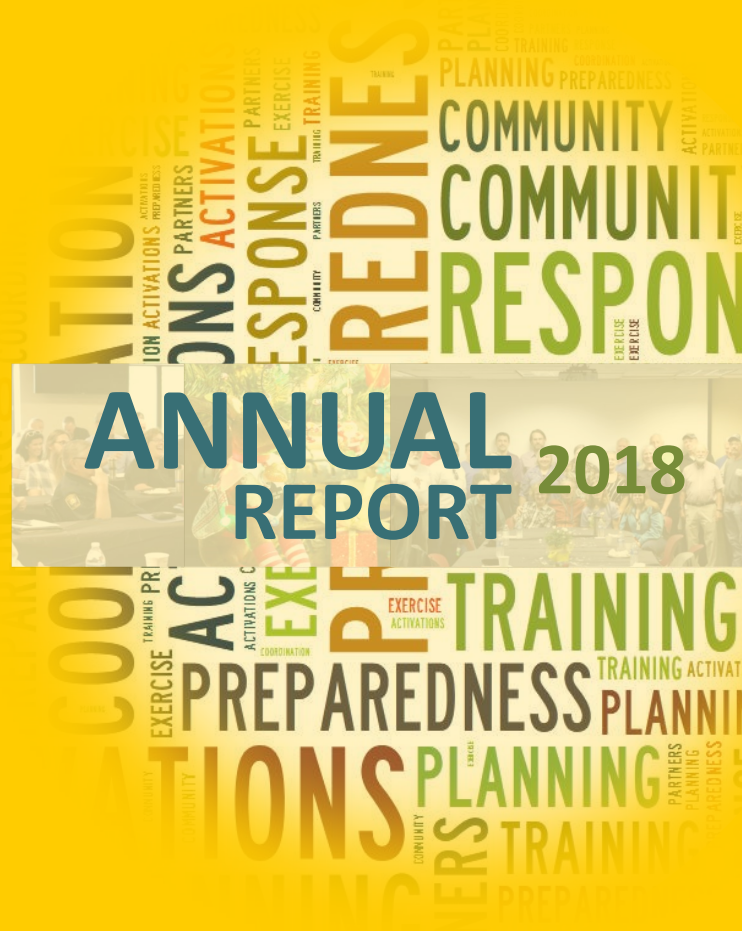


The second exercise, conducted on October 9, was a hazmat and critical infrastructure full scale which included nearly 130 participants at LMH Health, the Douglas County Emergency Operations Center, Joint Information Center and the incident site.



Training

DCEM hosted over a dozen community and partner training opportunities including the Severe Weather Symposium, Weather 101, and an ICS combo course. Annual exercises and planning efforts help identify training needs. This led to the development and execution of an EOC Liaison training for partners.



Wayne Deaver joined the Staff as a Duty Officer. He was a long time ACT, CERT and Skywarn volunteer with the Department, and we are excited to have him bring his experience and enthusiasm to our team.

Our team was also supported by Intern Cassidy Brobst. She was a great asset to the program assisting with social media grant documentation, and community outreach programs.



LEPC In Action

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is made up of representatives from public, private and non-profit organizations within Douglas County and is tasked with developing the all-hazards emergency plan along with additional responsibilities.

- LEPC Vice Chair Trent McKinley and EM Staff presented “Energizing Your LEPC” to participants of the Kansas LEPC Conference in Topeka. This was a great opportunity to highlight the dedication of our Board members and how much they support the mission of DCEM.
- LEPC Chair Mike Russell joined EM Staff and volunteers to promote preparedness at the Community Safety Fair in South Park. We all enjoyed engaging with the community, spinning the Wheel of Misfortune, and answering their questions.

Douglas County Emergency Management
 (785) 832-5259 * <http://bit.ly/DGCOKSEM>
emergmt@douglascountyks.org

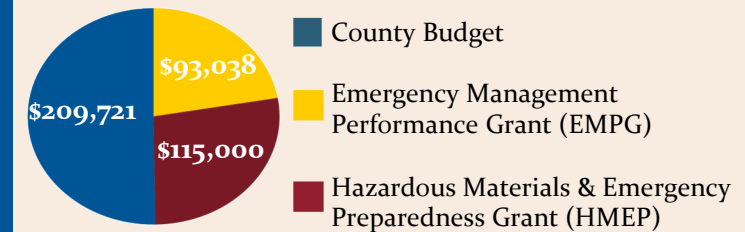
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Emergency Management is funded through the County budget and enhanced by grant funds. A majority of the EMPG monies support 1.5 FTEs within the office, and HMEP monies funded 2 full scale exercises for responders and partner agencies. Each grant requires matching funds which are provided by County budget dollars and in-kind time and materials.

2018 By the Numbers:

- EOC, EMOC, MCV Activations: 41**
- DCEM Volunteer hours: 1,464 hours**
- Community Outreach Events and Trainings: 56**
- Exercises/Disaster Simulations: 79**
- Planning or Coordination Meetings and Events: 114**

2019 Focus

HMEP Grants—EM will be coordinating two sessions of the HazmatIQ Tox-Medic training course. This specialized EMS training program designed to give medics the knowledge and confidence required to provide advanced life support care, including anti-dote administration to patients suffering from a hazmat/WMD exposure.

Plans—The Local Emergency Operations Plan is due for a rewrite, so staff will be working closely with partner agencies on this process. We’ll continue to identify planning gaps and support partner agencies with development of COOP Plans.