

Douglas County Emergency Management

Annual Report 2011

Mitigation. Preparedness. Response. Recovery.



Disaster Aware.

Disaster Prepared.

FROM THE DIRECTOR, TERI SMITH:

2011 has seen more billion-dollar natural disasters than any other year on record. From storms such as Hurricane Irene, which battered the U.S. East Coast, to the southern tornadoes, which brought devastation from Kansas to Alabama, we don't know where or when emergencies or disasters will strike.

I am extremely proud of the quality of work performance exhibited every day by the staff. This report details the high level of effort, work ethic and commitment of Douglas County Emergency Management staff that assist the community in having effective and responsible emergency management and homeland security programs. High levels of energy were expended in support of local planning as well as toward training and exercise programs. Douglas County Emergency Management continues to work with its partner agencies to progressively move forward the professional level of emergency management.

In the coming year, we will continue to work on ways to improve our ability to respond to, recover from and mitigate against disasters that may affect the citizens of Douglas County. As we move into 2012, Emergency Management will continue to review our plans, conduct exercises and prepare our citizens for the potential effects of disaster or emergency events.

MEET THE DOUGLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STAFF:



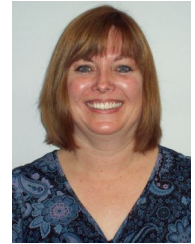
Teri Smith, CEM
DIRECTOR



Jillian Rodrigue
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



Sheila Meggison
PLANNER



Cindy Schmidt
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY



Doug Rhoads
MOBILE COMMAND
VEHICLE MANAGER



Mark Cairns
DUTY OFFICER



Bob Newton
DUTY OFFICER
COUNTY PUBLIC
INFORMATION OFFICER



Kate Dinneen
DUTY OFFICER



Will Shockley
MOBILE COMMAND
VEHICLE MANAGER

STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Director Teri Smith was elected as the President of the Kansas Emergency Management Association. Assistant Director, Jillian Rodrigue, completed KU's Certified Public Manager Program. Planner, Sheila Meggison, completed FEMA's Master Exercise Practitioner program. All Emergency Management Staff have completed FEMA's Professional Development Series, which consists of seven courses designed to enhance the skills of those in the field of emergency management.

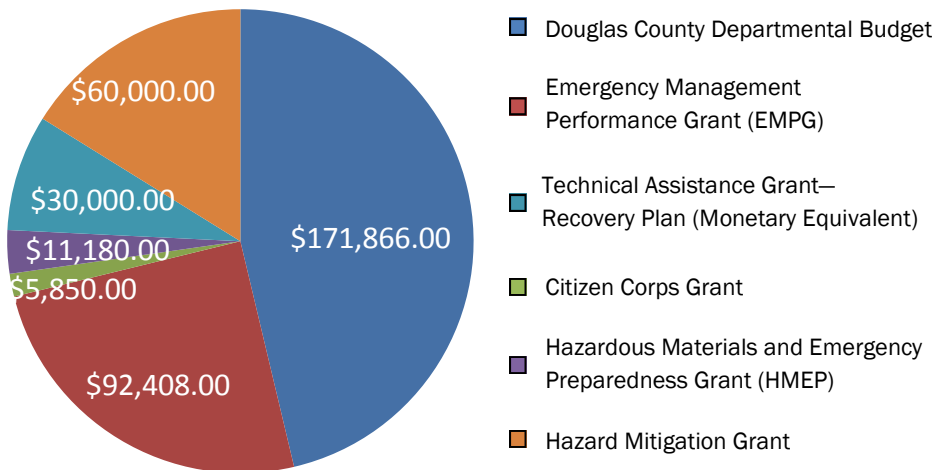
WHAT IS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT?

Douglas County is subject to a number of potential natural disasters such as 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.

EM Staff is available 24 hours a day for response to emergencies/disasters. Staff is also available for trainings or presentations on a wide variety of topics. In working with various community partners, we strive to ensure all cities and citizens are disaster aware and disaster prepared.

2011 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUNDING SOURCES



Douglas County Emergency Management utilized these funds to review and complete numerous plans; provide trainings and exercises for local agencies and the public; expand warning and notification efforts; conduct multiple preparedness efforts; support local agencies through the EOC, EMOC, and MCV; fulfill yearly statutory requirements—all to ensure Douglas County cities and citizens are disaster aware and disaster prepared.

NEW TRAINING/EXERCISE REQUIREMENTS

In October 2011, the Federal Emergency Mgmt. Agency (FEMA) and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) added new requirements for EM departments to continue to receive EMPG funding, which plays a vital role in enhancing emergency management operations and programs in Douglas County. One requirement is that each member of the EM Staff has to complete FEMA's Professional Development Series (PDS) by the end of 2011. This series consists of seven independent study courses equating to 6.0 CEUs or 60 training hours. Another requirement for staff included participation in three exercises in 2011. In 2012, this requirement becomes more stringent where staff must participate in 1 exercise every quarter and participate in 1 full scale exercise every year.

ACTIVATIONS: WHAT ARE WE DOING?

DCEM Staff is active before, during, and after natural and man-made events. These may last for just a few hours to multiple days, from a simple notification to a full activation of staff in the field, EOC, EMOC, or MCV for severe spring or winter weather, investigations, extended emergency responses, hazardous materials incidents and more.

Planning & Coordination Meetings	Presentations Walk-Thrus Fairs & Tours	EOC, EMOC, & MCV Activations (HazMat, severe weather, etc.)	Media Interviews	Training Courses Sponsored	Exercises & Events
173	47	63	37	25	18

2ND ANNUAL PURSUIT TO PREPAREDNESS CAMPAIGN

In efforts to ensure Douglas County citizens are disaster aware and disaster prepared, DCEM partnered with numerous local businesses and organizations to build disaster supply kits to be distributed to children within Douglas County. Thanks to these generous partners, Douglas County Emergency Management's 2nd Annual Pursuit to Preparedness Campaign was a great success. 150 free kits were donated to K-5th grade students at Broken Arrow Elementary School following a severe weather safety and preparedness presentation given by DCEM Staff!



PREPAREDNESS FAIR & "30 DAYS, 30 WAYS" CAMPAIGN

During National Preparedness Month, DCEM hosted our annual Douglas County Preparedness Fair at South Middle School and our "30 Days, 30 Ways" social media campaign. The Fair brought together 17 state and local agencies and organizations which serve Douglas County citizens. The Fair also featured a presentation from 6

News Chief Meteorologist, Matt Elwell. Special thanks to the local businesses who donated give-a-ways to those in attendance! Each day of September, we updated our Facebook and Twitter accounts with ways for individuals and businesses to take action and get prepared! Our thanks to each who participated with us.



DOUGLAS COUNTY SEVERE WEATHER SYMPOSIUM

This event is hosted each year by Douglas County Emergency Management and is the *only* symposium of its kind in Kansas. In 2011, over 160 individuals attended the event to expand their knowledge in advanced storm development, spotter safety, and the importance of spotter reports. The presentations included a scenario of the May 4, 2007, tornadoes occurring over our area; the process of issuing a Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch; visual precursors to tornado formation; and tornado research from within tornadoes via probes; and so much more! We're looking forward to and planning for next year's event. Want more information? Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/DCEMSevereWeatherSymposium.



WEATHER 101 is a free event offered each year in which individuals can obtain a basic understanding of severe thunderstorm development and identification of important features as well as ways to keep you and your family safe during severe weather. The presentation was given by the National Weather Service with refreshments provided by Paul Davis Restoration. More than 100 individuals joined us in getting prepared for severe weather at South Middle School.

AUXILIARY COMMUNICATIONS TEAM (ACT) UPDATES:

ACT continues to serve Emergency Management Operations during severe weather, providing information from outside agencies and/or individuals and our Skywarn volunteers. They continue their support of Lawrence Memorial Hospital (LMH) to ensure communications are available between their facility and the County Emergency Management Operations Center (EMOC), if necessary. ACT members also practice their skills every Monday night to ensure they are prepared to respond to any emergency.



SKYWARN UPDATES:

Skywarn volunteers activated 5 times this year, including multiple activations in one day, braving the elements to provide ground-truth concerning threatening weather to assist in the decision-making processes in the Emergency Management Operations Center.

CERT AND MINICERT PROGRAM UPDATES:

The spring CERT class had 13 graduates with a final exercise involving a mock evacuation of Babcock Place, a high-rise senior living facility. Residents of Babcock Place enjoyed the exercise and want to participate in future scenarios. The fall CERT class had 7 graduates and boasted a scenario with 54 “victims” and a Zombie twist.

The summer mini-CERT, a modified CERT course geared towards vulnerable populations, was held at Edgewood Homes and averaged 4 participants per night for 4 nights. The summer mini-CERT review was held at Babcock Place and had 14 participants.



VOLUNTEER HOURS AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

In 2011, DCEM Volunteers logged over 1750 hours in service to the citizens of Douglas County. Their efforts include preparedness fairs, volunteer and community trainings, severe weather activations, and so much more.

Are you interested in giving back to your community? Join us in 2012 as we continue to make Douglas County more disaster aware and disaster prepared! Visit our website for more information and how to get involved.

EM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



AUXILIARY COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The Auxiliary Communications Team volunteers work under the Emergency Management Dept., and are licensed amateur radio operators who provide support to local governmental units in Douglas County, KS through alternative communications capabilities before, during, or after emergency or disaster situations.



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

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 be able to integrate into the response capability and help save and sustain lives until help arrives.



SKYWARN

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



A MESSAGE FROM THE LEPC CHAIR

I'm very proud to have had the opportunity to serve as Executive Board Chairman for the last year. It's given me the opportunity to, yet again, recognize how fortunate the residents, agencies, and businesses are, in Lawrence and Douglas County. A program of the quality of Douglas County Emergency Management can only be achieved when you have strong leadership and dedicated participation from multiple areas of a community. This report reflects the hard work and dedication of a large cross section of our community, working together to help make sure we're as prepared as possible, if an unfortunate disaster happens in Douglas County. As a representative of the Executive Board, I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every person who contributed to the many activities shared in this report, and I look forward to even more successful activities in 2012.

Sincerely,

Tom Damewood, Lawrence Memorial Hospital

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA)

Douglas County Emergency Management in partnership with Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP), University of Kansas Athletics Department, and Lawrence, Kansas Police Department to design, produce, and promote a PSA telling citizens how to be prepared for severe weather.

Our PSA went state wide with help from KHP and can be viewed on our YouTube page.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS STUDY

Douglas County Emergency Management, in conjunction with 6 Northeast Kansas counties, received a Hazardous Materials and Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant to update the 2005 Commodity Flow Study. This study assesses the volume and nature of hazardous materials that enter, exit, and are transferred within Douglas County and participating counties through any and all modes of transportation (i.e. highway, pipeline, rail). This data allows



our LEPC to make planning recommendations for the transportation of hazardous materials through our community and to enhance response capabilities.

DOUGLAS COUNTY RECOVERY PLAN— A KANSAS FIRST

Damaging events such as the flooding in the Southeast Kansas region, and the EF-5 Tornado that demolished Greensburg and other parts of Kiowa County, Kansas in 2007, along with major tornadoes affecting Chapman and Manhattan, Kansas in 2008, highlighted the need for long-term, post-disaster recovery planning in Kansas. In light of this, Emergency Management applied for and received a FEMA Technical Assistance Grant which provided for a contractor to come to Douglas County and facilitate 3 workshops to help the group develop a Recovery Plan for Douglas County. Approximately 40 individuals from local, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and private businesses came together to develop the recovery plan—the first of its kind in Kansas. Topics of discussion included damage assessment, public information, finance and administration, restoration of public infrastructure, and environmental hazards. EM would like to thank each entity represented at the workshops.



HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT—4 NEW SIRENS

In 2011, DCEM received grant funds to assist with the purchase of 4 new outdoor warnings sirens. Based upon the Outdoor Warning Siren Placement Policy, Douglas County GIS assisted EM with



the identification of 4 areas for the placement of the new sirens. These locations include E850 & I-70 Exit 197, I-70 Exit 197, 1408 N 1100 Road, Lawrence; 860 N 1884 Rd. Lecompton; and 998 E 1500 Road, Lawrence. The Douglas County Outdoor Warning Siren System now consists of a total of 39 sirens. Developed as an early warning system of severe weather to persons *outdoors*, the system should not be relied upon for early warning to individuals indoors. Air-conditioning, wind, thunder, rain, and other conditions can cause the sirens not to be heard indoors (even if sirens can be heard indoors during tests). Sirens are also subject to equipment malfunction as well as failure due to damage from lightning strikes. This is another reason to have more than one way to receive warning and notification.

EOC UPGRADES COMING TO DOUGLAS COUNTY

Douglas County Emergency Management is responsible for the operation and opening of Douglas County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). During an emergency, this facility operates as the single point for information management, coordination, and support of on scene operations through cooperation among responding agencies. This requires specific communications and technological capabilities as well as adequate space to accommodate those agencies involved in response and recovery operations. In 2011 and continuing into 2012, DCEM is utilizing grant funds to provide some long awaited upgrades to the EOC including a sound system to be used during briefings, mounted projectors to add much needed table space and situational awareness, control system to allow for additional users to broadcast information to the entire room, communications with EOC-B, and additional safety considerations. This should be completed by March 2012.

PREPAREDNESS AWARD:

The Douglas County Citizen Corps Council/ Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) in partnership with Emergency Management and local organizations and businesses successfully engaged vulnerable populations to take the necessary steps to ensure all citizens in Douglas County are disaster aware and prepared. In light of these efforts the Citizen Corps Council/LEPC was awarded Honorable Mention for Awareness to Action from the 2011 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards.

Here are the most notable initiatives and activities which are geared towards vulnerable populations:

- Contributions to "Together Prepared"—a coalition whose mission is to ensure vulnerable populations are included in the planning process,
- "Pursuit to Preparedness" Campaign—where annual donations for 150 preparedness kits are solicited and distributed to school-aged children,
- Douglas County's mini-CERT Program—our new approach to CERT.

GETTING HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT

Douglas County Emergency Management has been a Program Manager for the Northeast Kansas Incident Management Team (NEIMT) for several years. Our staff are responsible for deploying trained members of this team across Kansas and the United States to assist other disaster impacted communities in need. DCEM has sent members of this team to Harveyville, Chapman, and Reading, Kansas communities following devastating tornadoes; Missouri River flood impacted communities; and to Mississippi in 2008 following Hurricane Gustav. Our staff is also responsible for receiving new applications and ensuring accurate records for all members.



OUR VISION is that Douglas County, Kansas will be a community of cities and citizens who are *disaster aware* and *disaster prepared*, but we cannot do this without **YOU!** Accept the challenge and take these 3 steps to make yourself, your family, and/or your business prepared!

MAKE A PLAN.

HAVE A KIT.

STAY INFORMED.

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