

In October, staff and volunteers conducted a 21-hour Community Emergency Response Team Course which empowers individual community members and their families with the skills and knowledge to actively prepare for and respond to emergencies that impact their lives. The 14 graduates learned basic first aid, preparedness, basic search and rescue, fire safety and more.

Emergency Management maintains an active presence on social media through Facebook and Twitter. Check in for preparedness tips, special outreach campaigns, and impacts to your daily routine. Follow along during the 12 Months to Preparedness, Winter Safety with our Elves on the Shelf (Timmy, Tina and Titus) and National Preparedness Month.

150 students and their families are better prepared for emergencies through the Pursuit of Preparedness Campaign. Students at Kennedy Elementary, LKPD's Police Camp, and Vintage Church Vacation Bible School received basic preparedness kits and a presentation on building an emergency kit, staying informed of emergencies, and what to do before, during, and after an emergency or disaster situation. EM is grateful for the generosity, partnership, and dedication of community members, local businesses, and organizations of Douglas County who support the campaign.



Other areas of outreach include weather trainings (Weather 101 and Severe Weather Symposium), reviewing business and organization emergency plans, participation in local fairs, presentations and trainings for community groups, and media interviews, campaigns and stories.

Staff and Duty Officers monitor potential and ongoing impacts to Douglas County and, when warranted, will activate the EOC, EMOC or MCV.

Tornado Hits Eudora

On Monday, July 6th the Emergency Management Operations Center (EMOC) was activated and had deployed spotters throughout the County to monitor conditions. A tornado warning was issued at 5:15PM and the outdoor warning sirens were activated by EM Staff. Once storms moved out of the area, EM worked with the Topeka National Weather Service to conduct a damage assessment and survey. The NWS determined an EF-1 tornado caused the damage in Eudora.



Mobile Command Vehicle Activations

Emergency Management maintains and deploys the Mobile Command Vehicle (MCV) for incidents and pre-planned events. This year the MCV was requested for 4 incidents and outreach events for a total of 161.5 hours of operation.

One of this year's larger activations was for the McCollum Hall implosion on November 25th. The MCV supported operations for the University of Kansas Public Safety and the Lawrence Police Department. This command center may be requested by all county response agencies, as well as, response agencies across the State of Kansas.

Ensuring our community can respond to and recover from any emergency is a continuous process. Annually, a training and exercise planning workshop is hosted to outline trainings and exercises being hosted as well as those requested as follow ups to identified areas of improvement. One of the areas highlighted in recent exercises was EOC operations training, so EM hosted an EOC / ICS Interface training for community partners.



Exercises: Applying Training & Testing Plans

EM Staff hosted and participated in over 80 exercises, drills, and operational tests. Scenarios included Ebola, active shooter incidents, hazardous materials accidents, severe weather, accountability and critical infrastructure.

Through the HMEP Grant, our department hosted multi-jurisdictional tabletop and full scale exercises with partner agencies. 11 agencies participated in the tabletop exercise which focused on response to an emergency scenario at the Lawrence Municipal Airport. The full-scale exercise (disaster simulation) included 14 agencies conducting operations at the Douglas County Emergency Operations Center, Douglas County Emergency Communications Center, Lawrence Memorial Hospital and the University of Kansas.

Planning is extensive for any exercise and is more than ensuring a good exercise outcome. It serves as an additional opportunity to strengthen community partnerships through discussion of potential scenarios and response capabilities and needs.

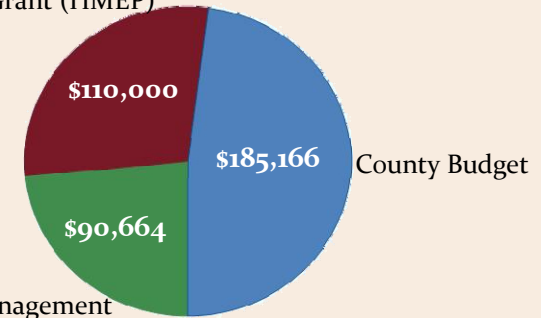
New Call Notification System

In July, Douglas County, as a part of a grant provided by the Northeast Regional Homeland Security Council, joined several counties in a contract with Everbridge for their call notification system. The Northeast KS Regional Notification System, which replaced IRIS, will send weather and emergency alerts to residents after creation of a new account. Find out what a “confirm and quit” system does and why your address is important by visiting <https://bit.ly/DgCoNotification>. Create your account today!

EM Welcomes New Staff Member

David Hogg joined the Emergency Management team on August 31st as the Planner. David and his family are originally from Oklahoma and are looking forward to getting involved in the community.

Hazardous Materials & Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP)



Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)

Emergency Management is funded through the County budget and enhanced by grant funds. The Return on Investment (ROI) in 2015 was \$1.08. A majority of the EMPG monies support 1.5 FTEs within the office, and HMEP monies funded two large exercises for responders and partner agencies.

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2016

12 Months to Preparedness—A social media campaign to help you make a plan and build a basic preparedness kit in 12 months!

HMEP Grant—EM Staff will coordinate a functional hazardous materials exercise with local community responders and private partners and conduct a Commodity Flow Study.

EOC Management and Operations—Staff will be working with partners to continue to improve our EOC operations through planning meetings, trainings and exercises.

Plans—Staff will be working with partner agencies on expanding COOP plans, animal response plans and reviewing current plans.

Douglas County Emergency Management

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2015 By the Numbers:

EOC, EMOC, MCV Activations: 63

Activations included severe weather operations, hazardous materials spills or releases, planned and unplanned events and emergencies.

Volunteer hours: 1,375

Emergency Management’s mission is supported by the numerous individuals who selflessly donate their time and talents to our department.

Community Outreach Events and Trainings: 101

Partner and community training, education and outreach is a high priority and is a part of the “whole community” approach to preparedness.

Exercises: 83

Exercises, or simulations, are how we test plans, procedures, and policies to ensure the most efficient and effective response to any emergency.

Planning or Coordination Meetings and Events: 179

Staff coordinate and participate in numerous state-wide, regional and local committees and review vital plans annually.