

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CERT

Staff and volunteers conducted two 21-hour Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Courses! Nearly 30 graduates learned basic first aid, preparedness, basic search and rescue, fire safety and more.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers supported event communications during the Great Kaw Adventure Race in Eudora and ensured accountability of Walk the Loop participants in Lawrence. They also practiced disaster skills with the Lawrence Humane Society and were active in supporting local emergency exercises through the use of the accountability system.

Volunteer Awards:

- Outstanding ACT: Debbie Liddel
- Outstanding CERT: Will Dietz
- Outstanding Skywarn: Rod Heine
- Outstanding Overall: Dave Maas

PURSUIT OF PREPAREDNESS

Over 130 basic preparedness kits were given to Douglas County children in Eudora following a severe weather safety presentation during the 7th Annual Pursuit to Preparedness campaign. We are grateful for the continued community support from businesses and organizations.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Staff continues to support the community through participation in safety fairs, by providing training, giving presentations, conducting walk-throughs and reviewing event plans. This included helping the community prepare for the Great American Eclipse as well as assisting business and organizations in developing severe weather emergency plans and Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plans! EM Staff partnered with Lawrence and Free State High Schools to provide a career overview and safety presentations to students.

ACTIVATIONS AND EVENTS

Declaration Signed for Flooding

On August 22, over 8 inches of rain fell in portions of Douglas County leading to major flooding. A disaster declaration was signed, water rescues were conducted, damage was noted on numerous roads and at Lone Star Lake spillway, creeks came out of their banks, and several homes and businesses flooded. American Red Cross provided clean up kits and other non-profit organizations provided additional assistance to residents. The storm caused over \$400,000 in damages.



Other Severe Weather Events



Portions of the County were impacted by downed trees, power outages and uprooted trees following May storms. Another high impact event occurred on October 14th, when damaging winds downed large trees/limbs and snapped power poles causing damage particularly in North Lawrence.

Mobile Command Vehicle Activations

It was a busy year for the MCV as the vehicle and staff were activated for 174+ hours for the Luke Bryan Farm Tour, the Douglas County Fair, to support first responders during 3 standoffs, outreach with Leadership Lawrence and for first responder training. The MCV is housed indoors at Douglas County Public Works.



TRAINING & EXERCISES

Training and mock disasters during “blue skies” help us remain prepared for executing during “grey skies”. This is a cycle of learning, applying skills and plans then making improvements where necessary.



EM Staff hosted and participated in over 80 exercises, drills, and operational tests.

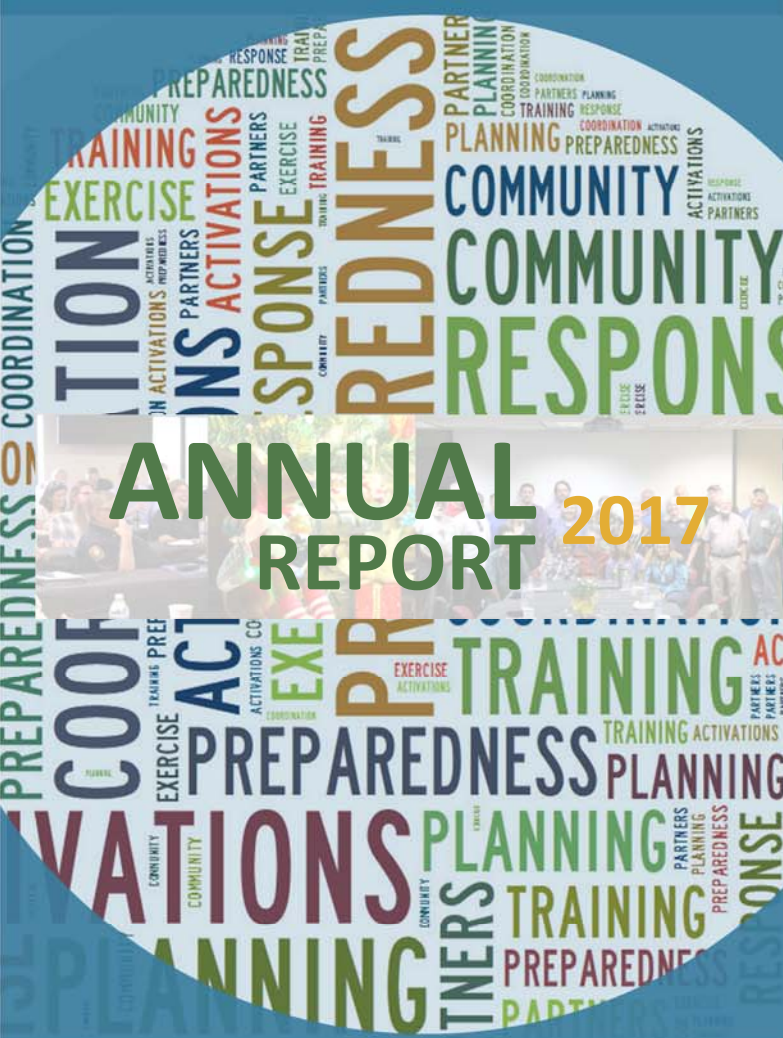
Scenarios included infectious disease, active shooter incidents, hazardous materials accidents, severe weather (tornado, damaging winds and flooding), accountability and critical infrastructure.

EM hosted three of these exercises. Two tabletop exercises, two offerings each, were funded by the HMEP Grant. This included an EOC Leadership Exercise and a hazardous materials transportation focused exercise.

On, October 19th, EM hosted a functional exercise co-sponsored by DHS where nearly 100 people from over 20 organizations at 7 locations worked through a severe weather and utilities scenario.



Participants included Douglas County (Emergency Management, Public Works, GIS and PIO Group), City of Lawrence (Public Works and Utilities), City of Eudora (Administration, Public Works, Police, Fire and Utilities), Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center, KU, and American Red Cross with support from Prosoco, Westar Energy, NWS Topeka, BNSF Railway, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical and Lawrence Police.



Assistant Director Jillian Rodrigue graduated from FEMA's National Emergency Management Advanced Academy after completing curriculum that provides the strategic level training, education and essential skills emergency management professionals need to manage dynamic and resilient emergency management programs.



Director Teri Smith was nationally recognized by her peers and elected 2nd Vice President of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). She will be sworn in as President in late 2019. Teri also completed FEMA's Master Exercise Practitioner Program to further expand her exercise expertise.



OTHER AWARDS RECEIVED

- DCEM was awarded the 2017 Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador of Excellence by NWS Topeka.
- The LEPC Website received the Regional Website award at the Region 7 LEPC/TEPC Conference.

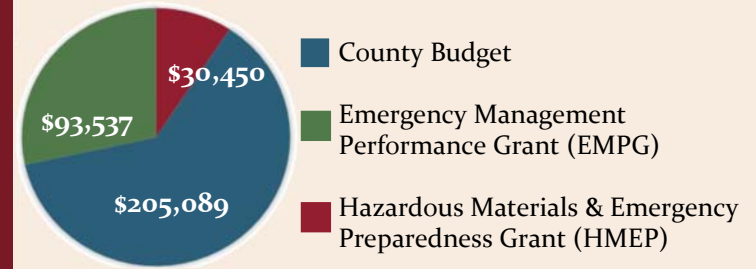
STAFF UPDATES



Connie Hutchins was promoted to the Planner position. She conducts revisions and development of internal plans, assists partner agencies with planning effort and oversees the Accountability System.



Stephanie Schulz joined the team as the Administrative Secretary. Among other tasks, she is responsible for meeting documentation, budget and grant financial reporting and Tier II reconciliation.



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 tabletop exercises (2 offerings each) and one hazmat training for responders and partner agencies.

2017 By the Numbers:

- EOC, EMOC, MCV Activations: 60**
- DCEM Volunteer hours: 1,347 hours**
- Community Outreach Events and Trainings: 74**
- Exercises/Disaster Simulations: 83**
- Planning or Coordination Meetings and Events: 196**

2018 Focus

HMEP Grants—EM will be coordinating two full scale exercises which are next steps to previously sponsored exercises.

EMAP—EM is working to becoming an accredited program through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). This includes compliance on a specific set of standards for the entire EM Program, not just our department. This will drive many of the department's activities. Staff will be working with partner agencies on their roles in this process.

Plans—Reviewing current plans, identifying planning gaps, and a continued focus on supporting partner agencies with development of COOP Plans.

