



Northeast KEMA
Teri Smith, Area VP
111 East 11th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044
(785)838-2460
tsmith@douglas-county.com

The Northeast KEMA meeting began at 10:00 a.m. on February 17, 2009. Teri Smith welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Attendees introduced themselves. Those attending included:

Attendees:

Kathy Allen, Shawnee Co.	Rick Frevert, Lyon Co.	Dave Sterbenz, Shawnee Co.
Garry Berges, Garry Co.	Laurie Harrison, Riley Co.	Glenda Sunter, Lyon Co.
Jillian Blair, Douglas Co.	Lance Luftman, KS Nat'l Guard	Amy Terrapin, Wabaunsee Co.
Brian Clark, Geary Co.	Alexandria Norman, Douglas Co.	Chris Trudo, Pottawatomie Co.
Pat Collins, Riley Co.	Teri Smith, Douglas Co.	
Barb Eylar, Atchison Co.	Jennifer Stark, NWS Topeka	

Minutes:

The minutes from January 20, 2009 meeting were approved as written.

Old Business:

The group discussed the MOUs for RHSC purchased PSIC radios. If anyone has not received their MOU, they should contact Pat Collins.

Program:

Jennifer Stark, WCM NWS Topeka, provided a brief presentation on an overview NWS Chat. IEM Chat is being replaced by NWS Chat due to the need for secure servers. This new system is open to media partners, Emergency Managers, ham radio operators, and several national partners. There are some new requirements including specific formats for user names, a short training, and a 12 character password that must be changed every 60 days. NWS Chat is, like IEM Chat, still a direct link to information from the NWS, but it should be noted that conversations are being monitored by local, regional, and national sources. Also, all information posted is accessible under the Freedom of Information Act.

New Business:

Regional Homeland Security Council updates:

The 2008 grant has been approved, but project approval and money allocation is ongoing. Not all of the 2009 grant justifications for projects have been received.

County Emergency Manager Updates:

Barb Eylar, Atchison County

- Barb announced that their new sirens were being installed beginning today.

Teri Smith, Jillian Blair, and Alexandria Norman, Douglas County

- Douglas County's Debris Management, Mitigation, and LEOP plans have all been submitted to the State and FEMA.
- The Severe Weather Symposium is being held on March 21st from 7AM – 12:45PM at the Lawrence Arts Center.
- During the March Madness exercise, a volunteer reception center will be opened to test that part of the LEOP.
- Douglas Co. applied for 2009 EOC grant monies.
- Alexandria has been working on preparedness information on burning. She has created a new webpage as well as 1-page informational flyers for the township fire departments to hand out.
- They accepted Resource Typing grant monies and in the process of hiring a contractor to not only type FEMA typed resources, but all resources in Douglas County. In addition to typing, the contractor will be writing a Resource Management Plan.
- A CERT class is on going and progressing well. Skywarn is almost done with their required training. The Auxiliary Communications Team continues to enhance their message passing skills for use during an emergency. Also, severe weather presentations are being scheduled for law enforcement agencies.
- A forum was held in February for CBOs to discuss resource sharing during a disaster.

Franklin County

- Teri reported for Franklin County as they could not attend. They are working on their mitigation plan and resource typing.
- They are also participating in a functional exercise April 1st – 3rd.

Garry Berges and Brian Clark, Geary County

- Geary County has been very busy fighting several fires.
- Geary County continues work on resource typing.
- Their Mitigation and EOP plans were going well.

Rick Frevert and Glenda Sunter, Lyon County

- Rick reported they are hosting an EOC training in March for all disciplines in the community. It will be a 1 day tabletop and a 1 day class to follow at a later date.
- The LEOP is scheduled to roll up to the state next week.
- Lyon County is offering 2 ICS 402 classes for responders. They are trying to get interest sparked from the private sector, especially from banks.

Chris Trudo, Pottawatomie County

- Chris reported the Mitigation Plan and EOP plans are completed in draft form.
- Their Debris Management Plan is in the pre-planning stage.
- He is working with the City of Wamego in the pre-planning stages of disaster planning.
- Pottawatomie County is starting up an EOC and organizing an LEPC meeting.

Pat Collins and Laurie Harrison, Riley County

- Pat reported that KS State is installing 3 voice capable sirens as a part of their notification system.
- The LEPC met with the local veterinary hospital to discuss capabilities and supplies that may be needed following a disaster. That location has enough space and supplies to serve as an alternate hospital, shelter, or special needs shelter.
- During the March Madness Exercise, Lyon County Health Department will be establishing a POD. Mercy Hospital will also be conducting an exercise.
- Lyon County EM is working on a drill involving the reactor, and they are trying to get the players from the Dept. of Energy to participate.
- ICS 300 and 400 classes will be offered. They are looking for EM, PW, and LE to diversify the class.
- Rick stated that the South Central and Southeast regions are ahead of the game when it comes to resource coordination. He stated that several groups are already organized, and that the NE region may want to look to use that for our resource coordination.
- Laurie reported they graduated 11 from their latest CERT training, and the Kiwanis group published a story in the paper.
- Laurie is working on a short presentation on an overview of CERT for response agencies.
- For March, she has started scheduling severe weather safety presentations, the annual poster contest for kids, and the Skywarn group will be selling and programming weather radios at Wal-Mart.
- Her volunteer newsletter is going well, and she's getting great feedback and input for new ideas.

Dave Sterbenz and Kathy Allen, Shawnee County

- Kathy Allen was announced as the new Deputy for Shawnee County EM.
- They continue to work on getting the new sirens, some with voice capabilities, purchased and installed.
- Dave reported they were having some trouble getting agencies to participate in the planning for the Mitigation Plan.
- In adding Ready Neighborhood to the CERT program, they are getting a lot more interest.
- Their LEOP has been submitted to the state.

Amy Terrapin, Wabaunsee County

- Is gearing up for their Storm Spotter training on Thursday.
- She continues work on the Mitigation Plan and LEOP.

Jennifer Stark, NWS Topeka

- Jennifer was notified concerning that certain radio stations were not receiving the EAS signal. She will be working with the Kansas Association of Broadcasters to work on fixing this issue.
- The first spotter training of 2009 is this Thursday. This year there will be a basic portion, similar to previous years, followed by a break and a more advanced section.
- At each presentation, the NWS is handing out a questionnaire to get a feel for the level of spotting capability of spotters.
- This is the last month the NWS will be mailing out its spotter newsletter.
- Jennifer requested that if anyone has an extra or old rural directory they don't need, the NWS is updating its rural directory records and would like them.
- An additional weather radio transmitter is in the works to improve coverage of the Kickapoo Indian Reservation, Jefferson Co., Atchison Co., and Douglas Co. The tentative location is in Easton, KS on a KDOT tower. Money is already set aside in the Region budget.
- The NWS is working to get more universities Storm Ready.
- Jennifer is on the KEMA training committee is looking for training ideas for the KEMA conference. She proposed EAS training and a mini IWT workshop.

Lance Luftman, Kansas National Guard

- KS National Guard is working on resource typing to simplify the requesting process for the IC during an event or emergency.
- They are also working on interoperability by including the statewide template into their 800 MHz radios.
- They are working to continue to expand the Scout system.
- He also enjoyed the Integrated Emergency Management training.

Teri reminded the group of the next KDEM conference call at 11:15AM Thursday morning. She will be attending the KEMA Board meeting tomorrow. Part of this meeting is having lunch with state house representatives. March 9th – 12th Teri will be going to Washington D.C. to lobby for emergency management.

The next meeting is March 17, 2009. Geary County will be the host. The meeting will be held at Barton County Community College, Geary County Campus, 100 Continental Drive, Junction City, KS 66441.