



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

---

---

**Call to Order and Introductions:**

The Northeast KEMA meeting was called to order on June 16, 2009 at 10:00am. NE KEMA VP, Teri Smith welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Chuck also thanked everyone for travelling to Leavenworth County, and thanked Debbie for making the arrangement. Attendees introduced themselves. Those attending included:

Kathy Allen – Shawnee County	Rick Frevert – Lyon County	Teri Smith – Douglas County
Jillian Blair – Douglas County	Jay Gradinger – KS National Guard	Dave Sterbenz – Shawnee County
Chad Blow – Shawnee County	Laurie Harrison – Riley County	Glenda Sunter – Lyon County
Bill Brubaker – KDEM	Chuch Magaha – Leavenworth Co.	Chris Trudo – Pottawatomie Co.
Pat Collins – Riley County	Dusty Nichols – KS Nat’l Guard/Sn Co	Debbie Winetroub – Leavenworth Co.
Barb Eylar – Atchison County	Doug Schmitt – Jefferson County	Keith Yoder – KDEM

**Minutes:**

Kathy Allen motioned to approve the minutes from May 19, 2009. Pat Collins seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted as written.

**Old Business:**

There was no old business to report.

**New Business:**

**KEMA Awards**

Teri Smith reminded the group that award nomination forms were sent out to all NE KEMA members. She encouraged the group to nominate other members and to attend the conference so the Northeast would be well represented. She emphasized the value of the training and networking the conference provides to all who participate.

**KEMA Conference**

Chuck Magaha provided updates on the 2009 KEMA Conference.

- On Wednesday night, Gerald Baron, CEO of PIER Systems, will be the guest speaker to present on new technology for societal warnings.
- The entertainment portion for Wednesday night is still being planned. A new change for this year will be that the golf awards would be presented during one of the lunch sessions.

- The committee is still working to confirm all training sessions which will be given for more people with less break out sessions. Anyone taking pre-conference training on Tuesday can have their hotel stay reimbursed by KDEM. The State Animal Response Team (SART) has requested time to give a presentation and connect with local emergency managers.
- On Friday morning there will be 9 or 10 20 minute roundtable discussions conducted.
- The vendor fee has been raised. Their fee will include 2 tickets for both breakfast and lunch. Additional fees include banquet tickets and meals for additional staff.
- The last day to book your hotel is September 4<sup>th</sup>. To reduce wasting money and food, the hotel has requested a head count 24 hours before each meal.

A lengthy discussion followed concerning warning and notification methods, challenges, new ideas, and the importance of educating the public on expectations and how to receive vital information. Pat Collins noted that with the digital television transition there is a 25% reduction in coverage. One suggestion for continued partnerships was to bring the Integrated Warning Team Workshop to NE Kansas and westward. This workshop could bring together EMs, media, and the NWS in order to build upon and establish partnerships which can improve our service to the public.

#### Regional Council

Bill Brubaker, Pat Collins, Chuck Magaha, and Keith Yoder spoke about the Regional Councils Conference they attended Thursday and Friday. The results from the capability assessment were quite interesting. An executive summary is now required of each region to be rolled up into the state executive summary. Each county on the council will be asked for their input. The guest speaker for the conference, Major Dave Young, provided a somewhat bleak outlook on the future economy and encouraged regional councils, all levels of government, etc. to find innovative ways to operate. NIMS has standardized the qualifications which are currently used on the regions' FIPS IDs. Brendan, Midwest Cards Representative, is working to remedy this change and standardize our qualifications.

#### **County Emergency Manager Updates:**

##### Atchison County –

- Had a microburst Wednesday night/Thursday morning and is working to get the damage assessment to KDEM. It appears the brunt of the damage was to the water treatment plant.
- She is continuing to educate the community on possible weather events.

##### Douglas County-

- Did not have any damage from the several rounds of severe weather.
- Next month is the LEPC Reorganization Meeting. The full board meets quarterly with the Executive Committee meetings during the other months.
- A contractor has been hired to complete the Resource Typing project. This will be a quick turnaround as the project must be submitted by 8/15.
- A new intern starts this week. She will be focusing on preparedness.
- In the process of starting a new CERT class to be geared toward businesses, especially the downtown business district of Lawrence.
- Working on 2 saferoom grants. Awaiting approval from KDEM.
- Continue to make upgrades to both the EOC and Mobile Command Vehicle.
- Together Prepared, a group who's focus is ensuring vulnerable populations are included in all plans, has secured some grant funding. They are partnering with the library to develop a call center for disasters and to provide situational awareness displays for every-day and disaster

use. This group has been together for 18 months and has held several forums with CBOs and response agencies to ensure each entity is on the same page before, during, and after a disaster.

- The Vulnerable Populations Annex is nearly complete.

#### Jefferson County –

- Planning ongoing for fireworks display. Estimating 30,000 people to enter the lake.
- Keeping busy with weather.
- Finished LEOP. Awaiting approval.
- Is being deployed to Salina for exercise.

#### Leavenworth County-

- Finishing up the COOP plan for the county. Should be complete by July.
- The state will be sending out a COOP template for cities soon.
- Continue work on the Mitigation Plan. Two schools have applied for saferoom grants. USD 458 has been approved. They have conducted the second public meeting, and the plan is on the way to KDEM.
- The KC Metro Region is doing their own Resource Typing, and Leavenworth's plan is almost complete.
- The ADA has set requirements for EOPs. Bill and Keith stated they would get the information sent out to everyone concerning these requirements.

#### Lyon County-

- Wolf Creek drill went well.
- Symphony on the Plains went well. A nine member IMT was deployed. They learned to listen if the NWS requests a conference call.
- Deemed StormReady.
- Applied for grant money to buy sirens for Emporia.
- Qualified for the Federal Declaration for March/April.
- Log jams continue to cause flooding issues. A temporary fix has been done, but FEMA has estimated \$1 million to remedy the issue.
- Working on the Mitigation Plan.
- Conducted another round of CERT classes.
- Health Department stepped up to the plate concerning the H1N1 outbreak. Local government is being proactive about the effects on infrastructure.

#### Pottawatomie County -

- Another city completed their plan.
- Working on educating agencies on the realities of disasters.
- City officials in St. Mary's and Wamego have completed ICS 100 and 200. Also, elected officials have completed ICS training.
- Caterpillar is interested in pre-planning and have requested assistance in this process.
- Gearing up for 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Country Stampede events.
- People are showing interest in CERT training.

#### Riley County –

- Active with CERT. Working to keep interest. Monthly trainings include powerline safety, chainsaw safety, and ID training. Working on an exercise to bring together training.

- Storm Spotters have participated in many safety days selling and programming weather radios.
- Still working on Mitigation Plan. Schools are not buying in at this time, but they have projects.
- Reactor Exercise – 108 people participated in the all day tabletop. Exercise went well.
- COOP plan has been sent to the State. Starting to implement new plan. Current sick leave policy will change when pandemic level reaches 6.
- If anyone has a project for the regional council, he/she should start working on them now as requests will be coming out soon.

#### Shawnee County –

- Hosting Disaster Encampment exercise in July for volunteer organizations. Participants will sleep and eat on site through their own means.
- June 8, 2010, will be a reenactment of the Topeka tornado.
- Working on Mitigation Plan but having trouble getting people to the table.
- Introduced two new staff – Chad Blow has accepted Kathy’s vacant position, and Dustin Nichols will be working part time as a planner as well.
- An intern from Washburn will be starting in August.

#### KDEM-

- Several NE Kansas counties encountered damaging 50 – 100 mph straight line winds.
- Wrapped up the Wolf Creek exercise. Final exercise went well.
- Participated in Leadership Summit and found it to be very productive.
- Symphony on the Plains – Local EM was glad to have the help. A communications issue was found between the portables and the COW.
- The group was provided an update on KDEM staffing.
- Area Coordinators are now equipped with GPS cameras. These cameras are available for loan.
- Awaiting the Presidential Declaration. It is sitting in Washington but should be announced by the end of the week.
- Two exercise trailers are available. One is in Shawnee County, and the other is in Saline County. The trailers are partially owned by KDEM and sponsored by the Regions.
- Keith provided an update for Johnson and Wyandotte Counties-
  - Johnson County – Held a Preparedness and Response Summit. It went very well. 88% of respondents stated they wanted more exercises.
  - Wyandotte County – Working Vulnerability Analysis.

#### Kansas National Guard –

- Wolf Creek Exercise went well.
- IRV will be in Salina during the Vigilant Guard Exercise. Upgrades are also taking place on the IRV.
- Deploying MV Post to exercise as well to work on interoperability.

#### **Final thoughts and Adjournment:**

Brian Armstrong’s retirement is next Thursday.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.