



LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

October 9, 2025

Minutes

The Lyon County Sheriff's Office was the location of the October 9, 2025 LEPC meeting. Those Attending were:

Jarrold Fell, Lyon County Emerg. Management
Shane Brunner, LCAT
Lesley Gilger, Hand In Hand Hospice
Michael Ribordy, Kansas Gas Services
Vici Smith, Lyon County Public Relations
Rachel Mitchell, PACE
Jesse Taylor, Emporia Fire Department
Paul Beadles, USD253
Harlan Smith, Newman Regional Health
Kevin Risley, Emporia Police Department
Amanda Cunningham, Crosswinds
Kayla Lang, RCIL
Nichole Schlesener, Lyon County Emerg. Mgmt
Brandy Orender, Lyon County State Bank
Bobby Hale, Lyon County Highway Department
Jennifer Tremblay, DaVita

Aaron Scheve, KSDWP, LEPC Chair
Misty Norton, LCAT
Rolland Trahoon, Evergy, Vice Chair
Kari Wedel, Kansas Gas Services
Vincent Breedlove, Bunge
Dylan Walters, Bunge
Jeff Cope, Lyon County Sheriff's Office
Brad Krehbiel, Presbyterian Manor
Kelly Mayer, Retired, Public Citizen
Ray Mattas, Emporia Police Department
Dennis Applegarth, Lyon County Public Health
Jon Reed, Home Town Health Care
Tyler Pettigrew, Emporia State University
Jon Vopata, Emporia State University
Loretta Torres, Quest Services
Roxy VanGundy, Lyon County Emergency Communications

1. Call Meeting to Order at 12:05pm
2. Introductions/Roll Call
3. **Motion:** Approve the Agenda New Business: Rolland Trahoon (Vici Smith) 32-0
 - a. With modifications to New Items: Added NRH Active Assailant and Vice Chair nominations
4. **Motion:** Approval of July 10, 2025 Minutes: Dennis Appelgarth (Kevin Risley) 32-0
 - a. With modifications of Declaration of Disaster Date had a typo; actual start date was June 3rd.
5. Member opportunity to review all Lyon County Tier II reports received within the last 3 years.
 - a. Tier II reports are available to the public upon request and will be present at every in-person quarterly meeting of the LEPC. To view Tier II reports, please contact Nichole Schlesener at Lyon County Emergency Management, 425 Mechanic Street, Emporia Kansas 66801, (620) 341-3203.
6. Old Business
 - a. None

7. New Business

- a. ESF7-Resource Support, ESF8-Public Health and Medical Services, ESF9- Search and Rescue
 - No proposed changes/updates.
- b. NRH Active Assailant Response
 - 8/28/25 Newman Regional Health had an alarm and had about 40-50 LEO from 6 different agencies. There was no stimulus upon arrival which turned this incident into a building clearing event. Lyon County Emergency Communication Center had 1,500 pieces of radio traffic in that 2hrs for just those responders. This did not include other traffic within the community and phone calls. A draft IAP has been sent out for review with partners. It has a few highlighted items that posed challenges and we are awaiting feedback. While this was a scary event with some unclarity to those involved, this provided a learning opportunity, thankfully everything was clear and no stimulus was found.
- c. Vice Chair Nominations
 - Jesse Taylor with Emporia Fire Department was nominated: Kevin Risley (Roxi VanGundy) 32-0

8. Coordinator Report (Jarrod Fell)

- a. Our Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) will be December 4th from 10am-noon; invites have been sent out to participating agencies.
- b. Our Region Hazard Mitigation Plan is at FEMA to get approved and once it is approved, we will have 6 months to get anyone listed within the plan to adopt the plan. Your agency must be part of the plan to get mitigation funds in the future.
- c. We completed a Commodity Flow Study with other counties within our region. This was one of our Mitigation Projects for this year. We have passed that around the room so you can review it if you would like.
- d. The Lyon County Weather Radio Project was also a Mitigation Project and we got rid of 400 weather radios in roughly 4 days at the fair. This was an 80/20 project, where we received a grant for \$7,000 and the county only had to pay \$2,000 as our portion for purchasing these radios for Lyon County residents.
- e. We do have a couple of Notice of Intent that have been submitted for Mitigation Projects and those include: The Tornado siren for HOA in Thorndale living area, the Little Lyons need help finding funds for safe room inside the day care, a generator and possibly the City of Emporia will be doing a study for a generator to be installed at the water treatment plants.
- f. Wolf Creek Reception Center training will be the 24th of October, 9am-2pm at Hartford High School.

9. Discipline Reports

- a. Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
 - Roughly 2 weeks ago they found out that their administrator will be working with them for a limited time moving forward and they will have people filling in until elections are complete and the Governor can make an appointment to his position. They are working with a short crew in the Flinthills area. Hunting season is here. They have 2 officers (Coffey and Greenwood Counties) in training and hope to have them out on the road and working by Turkey season.
- b. EMS/Emporia Fire Department
 - They are currently down 2 people; but do have 2 potential applicants to attend academy. Maybe in 8 weeks they will be fully staffed. Fire Station #1 building project is on track and the estimated move in date is looking to be the end of January. Once that is complete, they will go over to Fire Station #2 for renovation. They have taken possession of Fire District 4's grass truck. It is Fire prevention week. This Saturday at fairgrounds will be setup with bouncy house and fire hose along with other activities.
- c. Lyon County Public Relations
 - Bobby Hale is training to be backup PIO for the county. He is currently working to get all the required training in order to qualify for that. The Commission is moving Public Comment section of their meetings to be the 3rd item on the agendas moving forward in hopes it might be easier for people to attend the meeting during that portion of the meeting.
- d. CareArc

- They have been working on their regional PHEP quarterly reports and have been submitted them to the State for review. Currently, in the process of drafting some new policies, and trying to get a survey done for site security to assist with updating that policy. Due to government shutdown, it is hard to find someone that can come and provide that survey. They have talked about possibly reaching out to their insurance company to see if they will provide that service. Once that survey is done, they will get plans drafted. CareArc's Pharmacy doing a soft opening later this month. They are only going to be filling self-pay prescriptions for the time being, until their insurance credentials go through. For now, their operating hours will 8:30am-5:30pm, M thru Friday. The Flu clinic was last Friday, the 3rd, and they did see an increase in people attending, had roughly 200 people come thru the drive-thru flu shot clinic. Diane Moore in the WIC office has taken a position with USD253; the WIC office will be closed starting Monday and they will be furloughing the 2 remaining individuals that are left in that office during the shutdown.
- e. Home Town Healthcare
 - They are fully staffed and going into their busy season. The Flinthills Senior life Fair is next Wednesday, from 8:00am to 2:00pm. There will be 39 different agencies attending this function to showcase their services available to the public.
- f. Kansas Gas Services
 - They have had a lot of hits this year. Please Call 811 before you have to call 911.
- g. Newman
 - Had their annual Wolf Creek training and this year's was a graded exercise by FEMA and they did pass. Also, had their unannounced accreditation survey this last week. Staying busy.
- h. Bunge
 - Just finished their shut down in August and it went smoothly. They had around 2,000 extra contract hours for that period with all the worker that were brought in to help. They installed a bin folder, new doors and sweeper installed that will help make their jobs a little easier. Added several new additional good grain practices, such as new aeration flooring to keep grain dry and extra hazard monitoring cables were installed inside the bins. These cables tell them temperature levels within the bins at different levels. They also had an unannounced air inspection 3 weeks ago, and they are in compliance with State requirements.
- i. Hand in Hand Hospice
 - Realized during the Newman alarm that their Lincoln St building didn't have a plan in place for this type of event. So, they are working to put plan together and coordinating with Newman Regional Health to develop the plan.
- j. RCIL
 - One of their goals is to offer emergency plans to all their consumers. They have been able to provide items to consumers through KDADS funding. Examples: weather radios, flashlights, etc.
- k. Quest Services
 - Nothing new at this time.
- l. Lyon County State Bank
 - They have been working on succession planning and what that looks like for them.
- m. Lyon County Highway Department
 - They are looking at strategic end of year budgeting. Chip Woods is retiring after 30+ years with the County. Everyone should stop by next Thursday from 1:00pm-3:00pm for his retirement party and you can check out their new facilities.
- n. Emporia State University
 - Their enrollment is currently up this semester. All admission is free this year for any general sporting events, so please come out. Our Homecoming parade and bon fire will be at end of month. They are working on their EOP. Have done some assessments. They were able to test their RAVE alert system during the incident at Newman Regional Health, as they had football festivities going on and their nursing campus is right next to Newman's.
- o. Presbyterian Manor
 - After listening to the discussion from the event that took place at Newman Regional Health (Key access to doors was one of the big issues). Presbyterian does have a "kill switch" for any door that has a mag lock on it and Nokbox's at the main entrances. However, they do have a lot of doors

that still take keys for entry and those are not kept in the Nokbox.

- ❖ What would be helpful for first responders in this scenario since most of their doors are key access? EFD was able to give some ideas but ultimately no one had a firm answer to help with this question.

p. PACE

- They will be relocating to their new building at 1301 Chestnut and will have whole first floor of that building. Currently they are awaiting permits and then the goal is to be moved by the end of January or February.

q. DaVita

- They are now fully staffed with 2 full-time RN's and are open 6 days a week. They do have plenty of room for more patients, Monday thru Saturday.

r. Michelin

- New environmental officer that is in training. Otherwise, plugging away and all things are normal at this point.

s. USD253

- Security radios just updated for Middle School staff. Started using them this morning. Grand scheme started a series of meetings for cost containment. Their first goal is how can we save \$1.5 mil without impacting the student's education. We did lose a couple hundred students this year so enrollment is down for the district. A big chunk of the missing enrollment was the adult learner program. The cost containment group is wanting to wrap up meetings in the Spring.

t. LCAT

- October application is the period for figuring funding out for next fiscal cycle; over 70% of operating costs comes from that. Some vans are aged and looking to possibly trade out some but the cost is very expensive right now. Working on audits with state. Business as usual. Mobility 1st week of November; Free rides on election days and have a day for veteran's day where they can get free rides to Veteran's festivities.

u. Evergy

- Did have a catastrophic accident with a lineman in another area not from here. They have a very dangerous job and thankfully the guy will be ok. Other than that, it's a quiet storm season. Has a lot going on at the corporate level. As of January 1st, Rolland is retiring from Evergy after 40 years. He does plan to stay active in the community and continue his LEPC membership.

v. Crosswinds

- Nothing at this time.

w. LYSO

- We have lost 4 Law Enforcement Officers this year in KS to violence against police. A Couple out west and couple east. It makes it difficult to recruit for this job when there have been so many police officers seriously injured. We were full of deputies for couple weeks, but we are losing 2 currently. The Detention Center is down to only 3 openings. I would caution everyone as you watch social media, news, etc. to take it with a grain of salt. If you hear something, or see something that upsets you. Call someone, ask questions and find out the details so you can be properly informed. Our range project is coming along and the dispatch center will be coming with it. The Sheriff will plan to speak to that information at the public meeting next week.

x. Kelly Mayer

- There's a Nov 11th Vet parade; Dec 2nd Christmas Parade.

y. EPD

- They are wrapping up their busy event season. Upcoming is Dia De LA Muertas, Nov 1st the ESU homecoming parade, Nov 11th Veteran's Day parade, Rural St Trick-o-Treating on Halloween, and finally the Dec 2nd Christmas parade. They are still hiring.

z. LCECC

- Echo what everyone has said about 911 working closely with all their partners. Care about them deeply and it's a tough job to recruit for. Just lost someone to another county dept and someone who went PT, and we also have a dispatch baby coming in January. Director VanGundy will be filling in. They do have 3 in training and 6 in the hiring process. It is hard to get people through training, there is so much information that it can be overwhelming. Still working on AI project.

Taking 10 non-emergency projects and working those in AI. The hope is it will help lessen the burden for employees taking non-emergent calls. They have applied for Emergency Medical Dispatch Accreditation; this process takes about 3 years to go through. Kansas does not have many ACE accredited centers. They are prepping for their future new home, and working on continuing to go paperless, which is a huge project. Protecting Paul program for elderly who get lost. Paul is protecting unaware and lost individuals. Just basic information to help should someone go missing. SNAP program is for children/adults who have exceptionalities. This information is kept secure and private and not shared with anyone.

10. 2026 Meeting Dates

- a. January 8, 2026
- b. April 9, 2026
- c. July 9, 2026
- d. October 8, 2026

11. There being no further business, the LEPC adjourned at 2:00 pm

Respectfully,
Nichole Schlesener, LEPC Secretary