



South Central

KEMA South Central Meeting
June 6, 2019 9:30 AM
122 W. Marlin, McPherson

Amy Miller	Barton County EM	emergnt@bartoncounty.org
Doreen Johnson	Butler County EM	djohnson@butlerema.org
Keri Korthals	Butler County EM	kkorthals@butlerema.org
John Stradal	Cowley County EM	jstradal@cowleycounty.org
Bryan Ellis	Harvey County EM	bellis@harveycounty.com
Gary Denny	Harvey County EM	gdenny@harveycounty.com
Don Gruver	Harvey County 911	dgruver@harveycounty.com
Jim Leftwich	KDEM	james.t.leftwich.nfg@mail.mil
Rich Schott	Kingman County EM	rschott@kinmancoks.org
Andrea Taylor	Kiowa County EM	andrea.taylor@kiowacountyks.org
Amber Bowlby	McPherson PD/KSART	amberb@mcpcity.com
Tim Hawkinson	McPherson County EM/911	timh@mcphersoncountyks.us
Julie McClure	McPherson County EM/911	jmccclure@mcphersoncountyks.us
Tom Pletcher	Red Cross	tom.pletcher@redcross.org
Tara Ghere	Reno County Health Dept.	taraghere@renogov.org
Keith Vaghts	Rice County EM	keithv@ricecountymems.com

1. Call Meeting to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 9:37am by John Stradal.
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting
 - a. Motion to approve by Julie McClure
 - b. Seconded by Amy Miller
 - i. Motion approved
4. KEMA Board Report
 - a. Neither John or Keri were able to attend the last meeting.
5. Representative and Committee Reports
 - a. SIAC: Julie gave the report, most of the meeting was about the priority guidance document that needs to be turned into the federal government. AT&T/FirstNet attended the meeting. Kansas has the lowest adoption rate on the network mostly due to coverage and cost. They have not been able to give the counties a map of the coverage or where the towers are. It was said the discount they give you depends on what store you go to and who you get as the customer service rep. It was also brought up that Emergency Managers that are not also affiliated with a first response agency (LE/FD/EMS) are not considered a primary user per current AT&T policy. (Note: EM was identified as a primary user by the SIAC in the early planning stages of implementation.)

In addition, plan discounts are only being extended to department issued phones, rather than personal phones that are partially reimbursed by a department. AT&T/FirstNet has stated that these are “oversights” that will be corrected.

- b. KAC: they are still in search of an executive director. They have narrowed down the list of applicants to a few finalists. They will have a meet and greet with them at their meeting next week.
- c. Governmental Affairs: Gary Denny said the KEMA delegates went to DC in April around budget time. Those attending were Keith Haber, Jason Coffey, Dan Roberson, and Gary. They were able to visit every Kansas legislator except Pat Roberts. Their talking points were sustainment of EMPG funds (and ideally a 5 percent increase), Homeland Security grant program sustainment, continued support for EMI, importance of pre-disaster mitigation, NWS sustainment, and the overall protection of the EM system. Gary suggested that KEMA might consider sending delegates in February or March ahead of budget time, so that they can have more time with the legislators. Gary noted that the trip costs about \$1500 per person for lodging, travel, and meals. KEMA is one of the few state associations that send delegations to DC, and Gary personally feels that there is sufficient return on investment to continue. A draft AAR of the trip is complete and is in the process of being reviewed and finalized.

6. Old Business

- a. Training opportunities in the region
 - i. KS-132 - Discussion Based Exercise Design – was scheduled for June 11-13 in Wichita, but has been cancelled.
 - ii. AWR-136 – Essentials of Cybersecurity – June 18 in Wichita, June 20 in Beloit (1083364)
 - iii. Communications Unit Leader (COML) – June 18-20 – Wichita (1084435)
 - iv. Communications Unit Technician (COMT) – July 22-26 – Wichita (1084444)
 - v. KS-133 - Operations Based Exercise Design - Jul. 30-Aug. 2 – Topeka (1081418)
 - vi. Don Gruver reported that an Incident Tactical Dispatcher course will be held Monday through Thursday next week in Salina. Harvey County has 2 going.
 - vii. A Psychological First Aid Course will be held in Barton County on July 10; not on KS train yet.
 - viii. Tom Pletcher reported that Dicie is putting together a shelter training course. This course is intended to help teach the basics as well as tips and tricks surrounding the establishment and operation of a shelter. There are 12 counties that received a shelter trailer through HSGP funds (each contains 20 cots: 18 standard cots and 2 bariatric cots, and 2 blankets per cot. Pillows and hygiene kits were available upon request). In all, a total of 19 counties have shelter supplies. Ideally each county that houses supplies would have at least one person take the course. Heartland Preparedness Center is a possible venue for the course, but a final date and location have not been confirmed.
 - ix. IMT Finance & Administration Section Chief – July 23-25 in Russell
 - x. IMT Incident Commander – July 23-27 in Russell
 - xi. IMT Operations Section Chief – (unknown date) in Russell
- b. Regional radio tests -- John Stradal
 - i. No radio test was conducted last month, however radio tests will continue in the future.
- c. No other old business

7. New Business

- a. Kansas State Animal Response Team – Amber Bowlby
 - i. Amber is a volunteer with KSART. She gave a flyer out to everyone in attendance. The concept of animal shelters was formed after hurricane Katrina in response to the PETS Act of 2006. In our state KSART was formed in 2007 after

Greensburg. It started out with each county having a team, then went to a regional concept, and now it is a state team. If there is a disaster, KSART must be requested by county EM, they do not self-deploy. They go to the county and set up shelters for animals. They have trailers around the state called CAMETS, which are easily deployable. Each trailer contains supplies such as kennels, cleaning supplies, and leashes. Once set up shelters are manned 24-7. They take anything with "legs", but normally not strays. Past shelters include Elwood (Doniphan County): 114 animals including cats, dogs, birds, and pocket pets; Saline County: 10 animals; Neosho County: no animals; Coffeyville: 5 animals; Manhattan: 6 cats, 3 dogs, and 2 parakeets. They do follow ICS; and have vigorous requirements to join. KSART has over 200 volunteers statewide including veterinarians; Amber was unsure how many of those on the roster are deployable. All members volunteer their time, the only paid employee is Kelly Benton, the state coordinator.

- b. IMT: Bryan Ellis stated that the IMT is looking for more members, including within the South Central region. There are 117 members currently listed on the roster, however for the last deployment 65 declined. It is assumed that one of the reasons was because everyone was busy with issues within their own jurisdiction and unable to deploy.
- c. Red Cross: Tom wanted to thank all that he was able to reach to coordinate during the recent events. Red Cross has been able to pull together several teams for Douglas County for assistance, and will be in Nickerson on Saturday. If there is anyone from your county that needs assistance, have them call 211. They can also call the Red Cross directly at (844) 334-7569. When an individual calls the call taker will gather information from the person and a case will be started. When contact is made in person they will be handed a debit card with cash assistance, but Tom stated that it is not a lot.
- d. KDEM: Jim was on the phone on his way to the meeting gathering new information regarding IA. Before, FEMA had very clear guidance regarding flood damage, but now FEMA may now look at homes that have certain additional types of water damage. Jim handed out flyers to assist with preliminary damage assessment. Some things that are still unknown are whether a FEMA representative will have to go into homes to validate damage, or if KDEM personnel can be used to supplement or in place of FEMA. At this time, there are still 33 counties that the state is trying to validate damage for threshold purposes on the PA side. To qualify for SBA assistance a county must have at least 25 homes with uninsured damage. For IA, 100 homes in the county must be categorized as having major damage or be destroyed.
- e. Matt Mathias is leaving KDEM; Mark Willis will be the interim State Training Officer.
- f. Region G Mitigation Plan: Several people asked about the status of the mitigation plan, and for clarification on an email from Jeanne that was forwarded by Keri to the planning committee. Jim reached out for clarification during break, and reported that the plan has been approved by FEMA and adopted at the state level. County and local plan participants may now begin their adoption process. Copies of completed adoption resolutions should be forwarded to Jeanne.

8. Report from Members

- a. Gary and Bryan reported that Harvey County is in the budget process, they are trying to keep a flat line in hopes of starting a CERT team next year. Bryan has been working on a class for local damage assessment. Once it is approved, they are willing to open it up to other counties and volunteers. Don Gruver reported that Harvey County SIM team no longer exists; they have decided to do a regional team that has 50-60 members consisting of Harvey County, McPherson County, Reno County, Rice County, and Sedgwick County. They are hoping to get Butler County and Marion County involved as well. They want to do another class possibly in October. The team offers family support, peer support, debriefing, and defusing. They mainly are there for first responders but have helped a few businesses where there was an event that happened.
- b. Julie and Tim reported that McPherson County is working on their new radio system.

- c. Keith reported that Rice County is trying to get their radio system done by August.
- d. John reported that Cowley County is also going through the budget process. No significant budget changes are anticipated.
- e. Keri and Doreen reported that Butler County dealt with a tornado in Douglass in the middle of the recent flooding. They are also in the budget process, and are catching up on exercises and classes. They are gearing up for the DAM music fest in July.
- f. Amy reported that Barton County is using Facebook a lot and it helped a lot during their disaster. They had many shares and people liking their page which helped a lot.
- g. Tara from Reno County mentioned that Reno County had their Facebook page taken down for a while because they had too much traffic during the recent tornado, and Facebook had to make sure they were a legit entity. Keri added that at the recent KAPIO conference that some discussion surrounded having a blue badge on a Facebook page, which means that the page owner is a verified Government entity. Tara reminded everyone that with all the water, we will have mosquito problem. Reno County has started trapping and testing mosquitos. No viruses have been detected yet, but species that carry West Nile and other illnesses have been caught. They have received grants for mosquito dunks, which they ran out of within 3 days. They just received their back orders and have started giving them out again.

9. Next Meeting: Thursday, August 1st, Cowley County

10. Adjournment

- a. Motion to conclude the meeting by Tara Ghere
- b. Seconded by Keith Vaghts
 - i. Motion approved.