MINUTES

HARVEY COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

120 E. 7th Street

Newton, Kansas 67114

October 9th @ 9:00 am

In attendance: Mike Anderson, Shawn Chapman, Skip Cowan, Jamie Dehler, Brody Flavin, Brandi Gaines, Zane Hansen, Doug Hoffman, Sam Jack, Daniel Keane, Kyle McCaskey, Jim Meier, Lee Miller, Frank Paradise, Vanessa Pearce, Lynnette Redington, Becky Reimer, Karen Rothe, John Stradal, Delane Unruh,

Emergency Management Director Mike Anderson formally convened the meeting at **9:01 AM.**

Mike Anderson expressed his desire to propose an additional item for discussion prior to conclusion of the meeting. There were no objections or further questions raised, and consensus was reached among the members. **Agenda was approved.**

The next form of business was the approval of minutes. After the committee took a few moments to read the minutes, Jim Meier made a motion to accept the minutes as they were presented, Skip Cowan seconded. **Minutes were approved.**

OLD BUSINESSS:

There were none brought forth on the agenda, therefore the meeting moved on to the next topic.

NEW BUSINESS:

Skip Cowan took the floor to discuss the IPPW calendar and present the current training schedule for Harvey County's Health Department. He highlighted various exercises designed to prompt consideration of potential initiatives from other participants. One example included emergency protocols that the Sheriff’s Department may implement to train personnel on prisoner allocation during severe weather conditions. Additionally, he suggested the inclusion of Incident Command System (ICS) training for administrative staff and tabletop exercises for emergency management.

Skip emphasized the importance of collaboration to avoid redundancy in training efforts across the county, noting that the three-year training calendar is adaptable and subject to updates. He encouraged attendees to share any additional training needs, including mandatory requirements that could be integrated into the schedule. Feedback from participants is encouraged, as this information will be compiled into the training agenda to be submitted by the end of October.

During the discussion, Shawn Chapman mentioned he would work to provide an updated training schedule for the group to enhance the IPPW calendar. Lynnette Redington brought up a potential Red Cross training opportunity for consideration. Zane Hansen expressed interest in organizing a larger-scale active shooter exercise that would involve emergency services within the next three years. Mike Anderson provided an update on the USD373 event connected to the full-scale exercise in 2025, noting efforts to involve local schools in drills tailored for educators, where first responders would play various roles in the scenario.

After a productive discussion with several additional ideas proposed for the calendar, Mr. Anderson moved onto other new business and presented the updated “Daily Briefing” website from FEMA, which has become particularly informative in the context of recent hurricanes. He recommended that anyone who had not yet added the QR code to their devices during the last meeting consider doing so, in order to stay informed about current events and Harvey County's situation following the storm in May of this year. He then added where we currently are in the process of recovery from that storm and mentioned to the group that our Assistant Director Lee Miller is working vigilantly to assist hit areas with understanding the needs for filing papers to available loans.

\*\*Addition to Agenda: Tabletop Exercise\*\*

The meeting included a tabletop exercise based on a simulated train derailment and subsequent chemical leak, specifically anhydrous ammonia from one of the train cars. The objectives were to assess how the group envisioned managing such a situation and to explore how changes in conditions could affect the incident's response.

Participants were informed about the specific chemical believed to be leaking, including its characteristics, potential toxicity, and the possible effects on individuals within a significant distance. Following a thorough exercise, the group engaged in critical problem-solving, asking relevant questions, ultimately reaching a successful simulation conclusion. They identified several areas for development and noted concerns to bring back to their respective organizations for consideration.

After the tabletop exercise, Mike Anderson inquired if anyone had questions; however, no concerns were raised. He then announced that the next meeting for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is tentatively scheduled to take place at AGCO on December 11th, with the specific time to be determined. An email invitation will be sent once the details are finalized.

With no further motions or seconds for discussion, Mike Anderson concluded the meeting. 9:56 am. **Meeting adjourned.**

**Next meeting will be December 11th at undetermined time, AGCO in Hesston.**