

Nemaha County Kansas
Pioneer Building Meeting Room
710 Pioneer Street
20 November 2025

Nemaha County Emergency Management director Eddie Aldrine, chairman of the Nemaha County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Fifteen members, one substitute, and two guests were in attendance. Those in attendance were Eddie, Dylan Blevins, Gary Elliott, Tom Haug, Lauri Hertzler, Amy Lierz, Kathy O'Brien, Con Olson, Rob McKim (first time), Michael Philbrick, Amber Rieger, Heaven Schuette, Courtney Strathman, Ed Steinlage, and Rich Vernon. Substitute was Darla Dwyer representing NC Veterinary Clinic. The guests were Carol Arnold, American Red Cross, and Katie Heinen, NM County Red Cross volunteer.

Introductions by persons present were the first order of business.

Eddie reported he had contacted those members of the committee who were not meeting attendance policy in the bylaws. Mary Kay Schultejans had requested to be removed. Steve Brooks had responded he would like to continue being on committee but wasn't present. No response was received from Brian Rusche. Rich made a motion to remove Mary Kay. Kathy seconded. On voting, only "ayes" were heard. Rich made a motion to contact Steve and Brian one more time with a January response deadline date. Amber seconded the motion. Eddie asked for vote. No "nays" were heard.

Eddie stated he needed everyone to complete the membership update form today as he needs that information for state reporting.

Eddie reported that a successful farm implements rescue training had taken place since last meeting. (There was a newspaper article about the training). This training was Tom's idea and he did a lot of the preparation. A team of three from near Salina presented the training. Invited groups had been fire departments and emergency services. Eddie thought 40-50 people attended the training.

Eddie stated that he had distributed weather radios (3 events: Corning, Baileyville, Sabetha). He still has a stock of these radios. He acknowledged that organizations can contact him as well as individuals. To meet FEMA requirements, he needs a signature and a zip code.

Con reported a preliminary meeting has taken place coming up with a rough draft of a floor plan for a new EMS station to the east of the Pioneer Building. Tom reminded that the underground is buried debris from the demolished parts of the school building. Eddie commented that talks have also included the removal of the present garages to be replaced by space for Eddie to have an EM office and an emergency operations center. It was stated that the county administrator needs to complete this project by this time next year.

The next meeting will be on 19 February 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Eddie asked Carol if she had any comments to share about the Red Cross. She stated the Red Cross is now at 990 Fairlawn Road. She would also like to have more NM County volunteers.

Several comments were made by members:

Kathy stated that her supply of NARCAN aerosol spray will soon be expiring. Con, Rich, and Courtney made suggestions.

Amy commented on the status of the 800 MHz Kansas Statewide Interoperable Communication System (KSICS) project's progress. All aspects of the project have not been completed. All fire truck radios have been installed, but it was believed that programming has not occurred because of competitive brand policies (Kenwood and Motorola).

Rich stated he would have used 800 radios to recycle when the KSICS project grant is completed. Gary asked for six.

Amy also reported on a 911 grant application that had been submitted regarding mapping of K-12 facilities. The four chosen were SPPS (both buildings as one), Centralia, Sabetha Elementary, and Nemaha Central. This incident mapping would be done by Geo-Comm. Besides the dispatch facility, fire departments and EMS would be able to access. She also commented that those facilities mapped would have access. There would be a recurring yearly fee (under \$1000) not supported by the grant.

Lauri asked if NM County had Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF8) meetings. Heaven replied that there were none projected at the present time for our county. Courtney also made comments. (Having no idea what this was referring to, Google provided me this response "These meetings are held by state, regional, or local authorities to plan for emergencies, coordinate agencies, and manage resources to address public health needs following an incident.")

Michael requested Eddie to address Item 2 minutes on the updated agenda. Gary made the motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Lauri seconded. A vote occurred with motion passing.

Michael realized Todd Swart attendance had not been addressed. Eddie stated he would like to be removed from committee. Rich motioned to remove Todd. Second was given by Gary. Motion carried.

Eddie asked if Darla was going to be the Nemaha Central Veterinary Clinic representative. Her response was taken as "yes". Lauri made motion for Darla approving her as a member of committee. Ed seconded. The motion passed.

Eddie asked for a motion to adjourn. Rich made that motion and Gary seconded. On hearing only "ayes" Eddie adjourned the meeting at 1:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Michael Philbrick". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Michael Philbrick
Secretary