

STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS)

SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Meeting, Thursday, March 7, 2024, with nine members present: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; Burns, Commissioner Second District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Hill, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Lopez, Commissioner Sixth District; and Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District and Mayor Pro Tem; presiding. Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO; were absent. The following officials were also in attendance: David Johnston, County Administrator; Bridgette Cobbins, Assistant County Administrator; Angela Lawson, Interim Chief Counsel; Matt May, Director of Emergency Management; Susan McMahan, Deputy Director/Planning Emergency Management; and Monica Sparks, Interim Unified Government Clerk.

Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs said before I call the meeting to order I want to announce that we do have individuals attending remotely as well as on-site. All participants joining by phone, should please mute your phones when not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, make sure you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so the public that is participating knows exactly who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and is also current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General's Office. I would also like to remind, especially here on the 5th floor, that you please be sure to speak loudly and clearly into the microphone to ensure that your comments are being captured by the Clerk for an accurate record of the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Ramirez, Hill, Kane, Lopez, Bynum, Townsend, Burns, Burroughs.

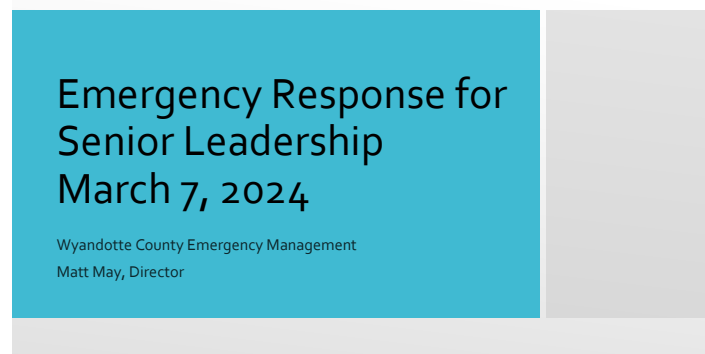
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be conducted in a hybrid format on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the

fifth floor conference room of the Municipal Office Building for a Special Meeting regarding Emergency Preparedness Training.

CONSENT TO MEETING of the governing body of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, accepting service of the foregoing notice, waiving all and any irregularities in such service and in such notice, and consent and agree that we, the governing body, shall meet at the time and place therein specified and for the purpose therein stated.

Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs said tonight we will hear a report and information from our Emergency Management Department regarding Emergency Preparedness Training. I'll ask our County Administrator, David Johnston, if he has any opening remarks this evening.

David Johnston, County Administrator, said last year there was a request from the Commission to get briefed on what is Emergency Management, the role of the Commission in Emergency Management. In my training this is imperative because we have to be ready not if an emergency happens, but when an emergency happens. It will happen sometime and so we've got to be on our game. What's nice is most communities, most counties, have an Emergency Management Department. We have one. Matt is here to guide us through an orientation for lack of a better term, so I'll pass this on to Matt.



Matt May, Director of Emergency Management, said I appreciate the opportunity to bring this to you. With me is Susan McMahan our Deputy Director and the head planner among many other things lately. We've been doing lots of stuff downstairs, so it's been kind of crazy. I guess we're

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ready to jump right into it. What we are going to cover tonight is a little bit about what Emergency Management is, what its role is, how your leadership fits into that and in a response and then a little bit about how to best prepare yourselves to be able to do that.

What is Emergency Management

Emergency management is the managerial function charged with creating the framework within which communities reduce vulnerability to hazards and cope with disasters.

IS-1.a - Emergency Manager: An Orientation to the Position



Here's the textbook definition of what Emergency Management is if you look it up. That's right out of a FEMA document. I won't read to you. I know you all have this in books, so we'll zip right through this.

What is Emergency Management

"The process of making public officials think about things they don't want to think about, spend money they don't have, preparing for something they don't believe will ever happen!"

(Selves, 1995)



This gentleman is Mike Selves. He used to be the President of the International Emergency Management Association and he was also a good friend. He was the Emergency Management Director of Johnson County and I've known him for a very long time. He was testifying before Congress when he made this statement and I literally used to have this, until recently, on my wall. "The process of making public officials think about things they don't want to think about, spend money they don't have, preparing for something they don't believe will ever happen." So that's kind of sometimes my job is to bring what the issues are to light, let you guys make a decision about what the priority is and then we take that out to the field, so that's that statement.

What is Emergency Management

"We do precision guesswork based on unreliable data provided by those of questionable knowledge..."



Then, last but not least, one of my personal favorites, "We do precision guesswork based on unreliable data provided by those of questionable knowledge." That's sometimes the reality. It's not always. I just do that because it takes a little edge off of it sometimes. We have to be a little light about it.

Phases of Emergency Management

- **Four Phases**
 - Preparedness
 - Response
 - Recovery
 - Mitigation



We look about Emergency Management in four phases. We talk about Preparedness, Response, Recovery, and Mitigation. The concept here is that—the interesting part about this is this is not in any kind of decent chronological order. Response gets the most attention, but it's actually almost always the very shortest piece of the event and we typically denote that by the end of life safety concerns. I mean the minute we think we've got everybody safe, we've done away with—if it's hazardous material spill, we've cleaned up the bad stuff and moved on.

Recovery; however, can take a very long time. If you're familiar with the EF5 tornado that hit Joplin about 15-16 years ago, they are still in recovery. They have not gotten back to what I would consider to be a normal stance and they're still working that problem, so just know that these things can—and Preparedness is exactly what we're doing tonight. It's a non-stop never ending process of being educated, being prepared, knowing what the expectations are.

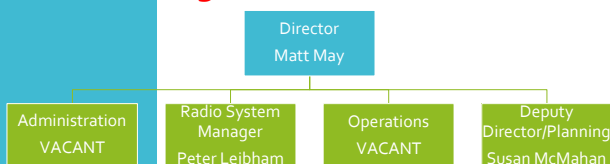
Then Mitigation is if we can do it, let's make the problem go away.

Authorities, Standards, and Guidance

- Federal/National
 - National Preparedness Goal
 - National Incident Management System
 - Incident Command System
 - Emergency Management Accreditation Program
- State of Kansas
 - KSA 48-929 Emergency Preparedness for Disasters
 - KAR 56-2-2 Standards for Local Disaster Agencies
- Wyandotte County Resolutions
 - R-25-99 Establishing a Disaster Agency
 - R-83-07 National Incident Management System

We have lots of Authorities, Standards, and Guidance. I believe these are linked in your electronic documents or no, okay, all right, but these are the statutes that we follow from the State. The resolutions that we've adopted locally, we'll talk about the last one there and was in '07, I think, when it was updated. The National Incident Management System we'll talk a little bit about that, how we all fit into that, but it's the National Standards for how we're going to all operate together. That's very helpful when you're requesting resources from other places because if I say to them I want you to come in and work in my EOC in ESF 4. A person doing that is going to pretty much know if they know these standards what that's going to entail, so they're not going to come in and be surprised. So, that's what those resolutions are.

Emergency Management Organizational Chart



This is our current organizational chart down in my spaces. Like I said, Susan is here with us and Pete is a fairly new hire, but he's out doing a public event tonight at the Junior College with STEM students, so he's having a good time.

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Leading Communities to Address Threats and Hazards

Overseeing a jurisdiction's disaster resilience is a significant challenge. Resources are available to help senior officials understand the threats and hazards that present the greatest risks to their communities and how to reduce those risks. A process for this includes:

- Becoming acquainted with threats and hazards that have potential to cause loss of life or property;
- Engage emergency management personnel;
- Encourage active collaboration among all community stakeholders in disaster planning; and
- Identify key actions to take before, during and after disasters.

We want to lead communities to address their threats and hazards. It's one of the first things we do. We work on a very—Susan's deep in the middle of this right now, reviewing a document we call our Hazard Mitigation Plan. That helps us identify what those potential hazards are, what our basic resources are, and where we're going to have gaps, and helps us identify those gaps, so becoming acquainted with those threats and hazards that have the potential to cause us life and property. Does everybody know that we have potentially, it depends on how you measure, the largest railyard in the country here—okay, that means there's a whole lot of stuff that we probably wouldn't want to be around going through that yard all the time. So, I work really hard to develop good rapport with those units. We're going to do an exercise with BNSF. I think prior to me being here we hadn't really focused on that and having a relationship good enough with them that they asked us to come and play is—and I'm going to help them develop their exercise. We can provide them an easy resource. It's really just a little bit of my time and relationships with the Fire Department, predominantly, because most of their threat is hazardous materials and we're going to bring those parties together in a couple of months.

I'm going to have a decent little operational exercise and we want to engage the Emergency Management personnel. That's not just us here. There's Emergency Management personnel in almost every major corporation. Everybody from Disney on down. You never want to think of the Mickey Mouse land having problems, but they do and they have Emergency Managers who are there writing their plans, identifying their threats and risks just like we're talking about tonight. And then build that collaboration between the community and government and the response entities and the resources and we build that more and more.

Susan has been working really hard on a Recovery Plan. Recently the feds, and we agreed, we really need to have a standalone plan, have it not buried in our Response Plan, but be

able to make sure that we're prepared for that long haul recovery plan and how are we going to engage because it engages a very different group of people, less response agencies and a lot more community agencies, the Chamber of Commerce, etc., etc. So, we look to them and business groups like the Fairfax District and things like that, so we try to get them all together to make sure we're all on the same page and to give them a platform to put in their input.



If you are interested, here are our top five threats and hazards based on the current plan. We are, like I said, in the midst of rewriting this plan, so this will probably change a little bit. Usually they just kind of flip-flop around. The top five, six, seven don't go away very far, but flooding is right now our biggest concern and that's for a variety of reasons. We're doing a lot of work to prevent that, like working with the CORP and so forth, raising levies, doing those kinds of things to try and minimize that impact, but we are still looking at that.

Windstorms; a lot of damage can come from the windstorms particularly with utilities. We have utility and infrastructure failures. If we flood out and the train tracks are all buried under water, the local power plants for the most part really rely on coal coming in by rail and they're going to have to look at alternative fuel sources and what are they doing about that.

Drought; we know what that's like because we're in the middle of one despite the fact that it's raining right now. Then, Hazardous Materials Incidents; we've had several of those. A lot of them are fairly easy for us to resolve and get dealt with. Some of them can be very, very dangerous. I still have a picture on my laptop that shows the tank over at the Conoco Phillips facility burning. I was working for MARC at the time and was looking out the window and I had a great view of it and I got this great picture and I keep that on there to remind me what can happen. It was really well handled, but it can be a big deal.

Underneath that are the ones you probably are also thinking of, which is winter storms and tornados. They come in sixth and seventh, so they're out there.

Overview of the Senior Official's Role

In most jurisdictions Senior Officials are responsible for:

- Ensuring the safety of the citizens and protection of property
- Ensuring the continuity of government
- Activating specific legal authorities (disaster declarations, evacuations, state of emergency, or other protective actions)
- Delegating Authority for Incident Command to an Incident/ Unified Command
- Coordinating with the PIO to keep the media and public informed
- Requesting assistance from State agencies through EM
- Resolving any resource allocation conflicts and authorizing expenditures
- Coordinating with other Elected Officials & whole community partners
- Participating in a Multiagency Coordination Group (MAC)
- Your personal preparedness

Appendix A contains a detailed checklist and a suggested go-kit for senior officials.
[Local Elected and Appointed Officials Guide \(fema.gov\)](#)

What's your role in that? Well, you have lots of them. Look at all the bullet points. One is we're all responsible for trying to ensure the safety of the citizens, protection of the property, continuity of government, activating specific legal authorities, utilizing those disaster declarations. That's a role of the Mayor or the Mayor Pro Tem would play once we identify what the threat is and we want to let the State know that we're engaged. The first thing we do is write a very simple—it's really just a few sentences, paragraphs, a paragraph or two that we send to them to tell us that we are engaging in our response.

The PIO's have a huge role in this. We've got to keep the public informed, we've got to make sure that they know what's happening and get them good information about how to respond. We're going to request assistance. I'll show you that more in a slide later. Coordinating with other elected officials, that could be neighbors, that could be Edwardsville, Bonner, the other surrounding counties and then of course growing across the straight line. We cross that State line routinely and we try as much as we can from our Emergency Management standpoint to make that be as nonissue as we can and then we can also participate in multi-agency coordination groups so we can create a group. Let's say it's primarily a fire issue. We have a large fire that's going on. We'll put multiple responders from different agencies together in a room to try and help develop some of the things that we need like goals and objectives and bring those to you guys for approval. Then, you have a responsibility for your own personal preparedness. You cannot come here and do the job you need to do if you have to worry about what's going on at home and that's

understandable. When we get to the end, we'll give you some tips about how to do that for yourself and how to move forward.

Questions about those? I'll stop for a minute. That's a lot to take in.

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

NIMS is a "systematic, proactive approach to guide all levels of government, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to work together to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from the effects of incidents. NIMS provides stakeholders across the whole community with shared vocabulary, systems and processes to successfully deliver the capabilities described in the National Preparedness System. NIMS provides a consistent foundation for dealing with all incidents, ranging from daily occurrences to incidents requiring a coordinated federal response."

Within the National Incident Management System there is some parts that are really important and it is again a standard that we work across the country based on—a lot of it has evolved out of California and Florida because they get a lot of events. They've had a lot of time to practice this and then we have nationalize that probably about 15 years ago and they just recently, and by recently I mean in 2017, did a really thorough rebuild of what NIMS is all about. There's some classwork I can show you. There's some free online classes that you can look at if you want to get a little bit deeper taste of it than I can afford to do here per time.

NIMS is...

NIMS is...	NIMS is Not...
A comprehensive, nationwide, systematic approach to incident management, including the command and coordination of incidents, resource management and information management	- A static system - Only applicable to certain emergency response personnel - Only the Incident Command System
A set of concepts and principles for all threats, hazards and incidents across all mission areas	A response plan
Scalable, flexible and adaptable, used for all incidents, from day-to-day to large-scale incidents	Used only during large-scale incidents
Standardized resource management procedure that enables coordination among different jurisdictions and organizations	A resource ordering system
Essential principles for communications and information management	A communications plan

Here's a good chart that kind of gives you what it is and what it isn't. Again, comprehensive approach, nationwide, systematic, concepts and principles, scalable, flexible, adaptable. We can make it be what we need it to be to effectively respond to an event. Standardized resource management, we call that resource typing and so we—a truck is not always a truck is not always

a truck. I know of an event where they asked for a food truck and what they got was a guy who sells corn dogs out of the back of a little pickup truck and what they really wanted was one of the food trucks from one of the big organizations. Southern Baptist, the Methodists do this, they tend to be faith-based groups. They'll roll in with two or three tractor trailers and they'll be able to make 10,000-15,000 meals in a day and it's an amazing thing to watch. It's been great to work with those folks, but you've got to know what you're asking for so they provided a mechanism for how to ask for the right thing to get what you need. Essential principles for communication and information management, that's key. We can't go forward if we don't know what's going on either amongst us or outside of us.

Incident Command System (ICS)

ICS is a "consistent, on-scene approach to incident management allowing users to assume a cohesive standardized approach to the command, control and coordination of on-scene incident management, providing a common hierarchy within which personnel from multiple organizations can be effective. ICS is the combination of procedures, personnel, facilities, equipment and communications operating within a common organizational structure, designed to aid in the management of on-scene resources during incidents. It is used for all kinds of incidents and is applicable to small, as well as large and complex, incidents, including planned events."

Incident Command System; this is typically a field of terminology. This is how the responders are going to work in the field. It gives them a predetermined structure with predetermined boxes, if you will, for the elements that need to be addressed. Again, it just gives a consistency to it, it gives common terminology, those kinds of things and within the EOC we actually follow something very similar to it, so we use, for example, in the Incident Command System, they develop a plan for how they're going to react. It's done really out in the field and they call that an Incident Action Plan. Well, we're not operational out in the field. We're here being their support team and so I call mine an Incident Support Plan and some of the terminology is exactly the same and some of it is a little bit different, mostly to keep up with confusion from out in the field.

If somebody comes in and says, yeah, I'm the Branch Section Chief, I know that's a field person. If you come in and say I'm the Situational Assessment Coordinator, then I know you're in the EOC. Just to keep that straight, it's the same position on the org chart and you'll see that here in a second, but that's the idea.

Emergency Operation Center (EOC)

EOCs are physical or virtual locations where staff, stakeholders and partners gather to provide support for an incident.

Example functions within EOCs include:

- Collecting, sharing and disseminating information;
- Supporting resource needs and requests;
- Coordinating plans and determining current and future requirements;
- Supporting public communications;
- Conducting liaison with partners; and
- Supporting the policy and legal needs of decision makers.

Again, what are we doing in the EOC. I always narrow it down to two things really. We're information, collection and dissemination and we're also doing resource management. I need 20 generators, I only have five, who's going to get them, how do we do that, can we make them work, can we find more; all those things fall generally speaking within the EOC. We in the EOC will come and ask you as leadership to help us develop some parts to that. One is we want a set of goals and objectives and that almost always starts out with life, safety, protect property, protect the environment, those are usually the top ones on the list. After that, what do we do. What's the priority that we need to focus on and then we go from that to building missions and usually that's by response groups, so Fire's going to do a mission, PD is doing a mission, Public Works is doing a mission, and so forth. Then within that, what tasks need to be done to accomplish that mission.

Once you build up from the bottom and then we help support that task element by making sure they have the supplies they need, the people they need, the equipment they need, the trucks they need, whatever it is. Take the example of if you have to build a sandbag levy to keep water out of a particular part of town, what's the goal to keep water out of town, what's the mission, build a sandbag levy. What's the task, find bags, get sand, find people to fill bags, seal them up, put them on a truck and move them where they need to go. It's just that structure. It's just done over and over and over again for different multiple objectives and you can have a lot of objectives or you can have just a few, but that'll be a piece that we will come to you with and say here's what we think the objectives might be, we'd like your consideration on this. Does that make sense. Are we all good? Okay.

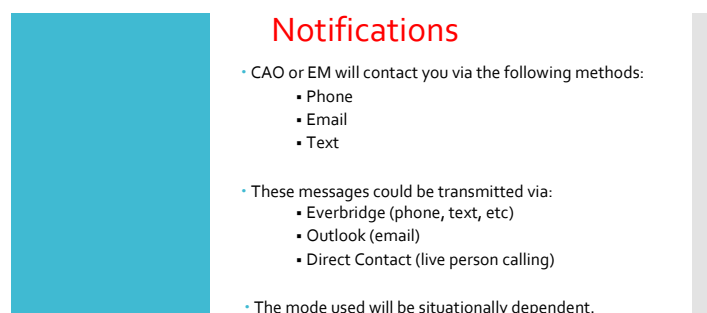
Again, you can see we're liaison with partners, we want to support the policies and legal needs of the decision makers, etc.

All Disasters are Local



Here's how that kind of works. Once an incident starts we have the usual response. Dispatch is involved, Police, Fire, EMS is involved, Public Works is involved and we hopefully get notified and we'll say okay, what do you need from us. All right let's look around the city and see if we can find whatever that need is. You need 10 forklifts to lift a pile of something off a particular site, okay, we can work on that. You know the city and the county transition, sometimes it's pretty seamless, so we get there, but in other jurisdictions it's a little more structured. We have one here in the Kansas City area that's a little different than a lot of other places in that we have regional resources and we have a whole plan that looks very similar to our Response Plan that's built on that same structure, uses the same nomenclature and layout. So, we go to the region first because it's easy and it's fast and we know what they have because we play together all the time. If they don't—if we run out within the region of something, say we run out of sandbags, where can we get them, well we would reach back to the State and say hey, can you get us a supply blah, blah, blah, whatever it is. Yep, sure can. We'll send them to you. Well, at some point they may run out of stuff or they may not have ever had it, might have to come up with something they don't have, so then they can make that request to the federal government and see if they can supply that. Usually when they get to that level we're looking at recruiting aircraft resources if we're doing a firefight or something like that, a large wildland fire, which isn't likely here, but it's on the list. Does that all make sense? That's the progression. To do that it all starts at the beginning with that declaration that we sign off on early on and then we can provide that to the State. The State says okay, you got a deck in play, we get it, we're going to move on and then the State will create a declaration of their own, actually, they call it a proclamation at that point, the Governor signs off on that, sends it to the feds and particularly ultimately the President signs off on it and then FEMA

can start to supply us resources. It takes time. Sometimes it comes with a bill behind it too, so we need to be aware of that, make sure you're aware of that so you know what we're committing to.



Notifications

- CAO or EM will contact you via the following methods:
 - Phone
 - Email
 - Text
- These messages could be transmitted via:
 - Everbridge (phone, text, etc)
 - Outlook (email)
 - Direct Contact (live person calling)
- The mode used will be situationally dependent.

So, bad things happen. How do you know about it. Well, we're going to use a multitude of different methods to do that. We will reach out to you. The CAO, an Assistant County Administrator is typically the Director of the EOC and they're going to say yes, let's send out a message and here's who we need to call, here's who we need to send an email to, here's who we need to send a text. We have a system called Everbridge that can do all of that. You're probably all familiar with that. You've probably gotten those messages from time to time already, but it provides a multi-mode way of contacting you. Can it get annoying? Yes, that's what it's supposed to do. It's supposed to get you to answer. If you'll actually acknowledge the message, it should stop.

Outlook, maybe it's not that time sensitive, but we're trying to keep you abreast of what's going on, so we will send you something in email. If you've gotten our situation reports, that's a typical thing that we send just by email because it's not as time critical and then if we have something individual we have to work on, somebody we know who has a direct specific resource, we might ask to do a direct contact. That's usually after we've kind of fired things up. It will all be situationally independent.

Notifications

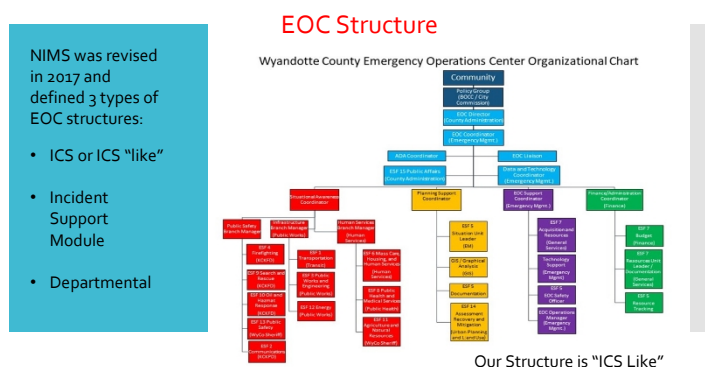


Multi facettted communications/messaging tool.

- Text
- Email
- Voice (Recorded and Text to Speech)

UG is currently using it for internal and team notification.
CAO is exploring expanding this to include mass notification.

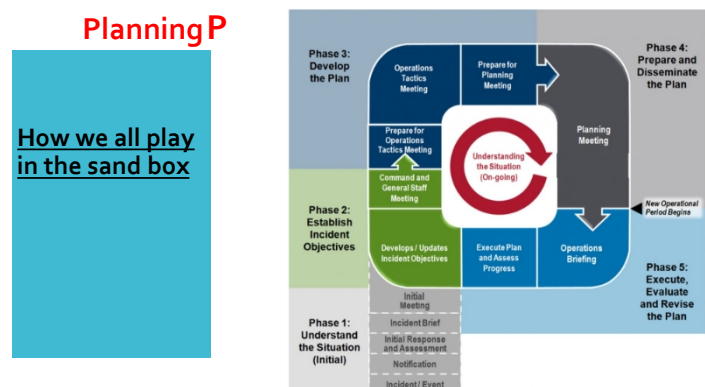
We talked about Everbridge. That's that multifaceted tool. There are lots of tools like that, but it's one of the leaders in the industry right now for doing this. It can send a text to facts, an email voice, and it can go both directions. You can go from text to speech or it can go the other way, depending on what your situation is. The UG is currently using it for internal and team notification and we're doing a little exploratory work on whether we should start to include that into mass notification and we've talked about that.



This is our org chart. I know it's small. It's in your books, it's in a much easier to read format towards the back. Again, we are ICS "like". We are Incident Command System structure. Similar you'll see those same four columns. If you're out in the field we refer to it as the FLOP because it's Finance, Operations, Logistics and Planning. That's the part below the long horizontal line. Everything above that's Command Staff, everybody below that's in one of those four categories. Does that all make sense? There's a couple of spots in your book where we can reference to that, the green tab, it's at the very back just pass that green tab.

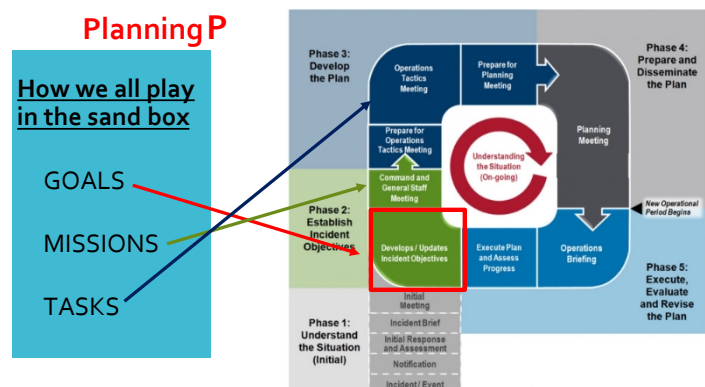
There's a couple other things on your Senior Officials Checklist. You're going to find that on page 32 and 33 and I think the one comment I would make about that long list of

checkboxes is one of the key goals of that checkbox list is to remove barriers from us getting those other jobs done, so help us find out how we can get past those stopping points. You can see they're broken into pre-disaster, during the disaster, and then major emergency tasks and we look at these every time and say that applies today and that doesn't. I know the last time we had Legal down in the EOC we asked them to put things into WebEOC for us. I wasn't sure if Ken was happy about that or not, but he seemed to be when we were all done. After the disaster there is still work to do. Like I said, that can be the longest piece of this if you're in recovery, so be prepared for that. You'll see 39 the continuum of how recovery works as far as there's a lot of overlap. You'll see we'll start one piece as we're ending another piece. I said earlier, remember that an EOC is not a response element. We're not out putting wet stuff on hot stuff or, you know, putting people in jail. We are a support team for all that and we will sometimes come asking for something. Why would you want that, you're not out there because somebody out there asked for it, that's why we're coming and looking for that.



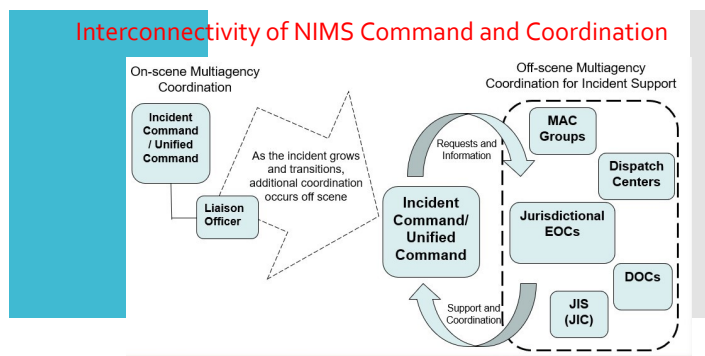
What is the Planning P? How does this all structure together? It's really, again, part of that nationalized standard for how we're all going to play together. The things in the bottom in Phase One, those are things you're going to do one time, so you've got incident happens, bang as they call it, notification, initial response and assessment, we're going to build up an incident brief. Somebody in the EOC is going to go around and collect up information that we know right this minute. It may change in the next five minutes, but we're going to write up what we think we know now and we're going to get that out to you. If you're already in, we're going to hand that out locally within the EOC. If you're not here, we're going to send it out by one of those other communication methods and then we're going to start with an initial meeting. How do we want

to move forward, what resources do we have out there, what else do we need to do. Remember I said the first thing to do is develop or update the incident objectives so you're going to come up with goals for us, we're going to build objectives out of that and that's what the people are going to work on for us.



There's Goals and then you have Missions that come out of the Command Staff. That's a different group of people, so now we just got the leadership from each of these response organizations joining in with us with the Planning team. Then we develop a list of tasks and that's in the tactics meeting. That's those operational people out in the field. They're going to figure out how we're going to do whatever it is we've decided we need to get done and so that's how this works. We get through this and I would please caution you that this is chronologically not all balanced like this. There's a whole lot of frenetic going on in the first left-hand side and then it kind of slows down. We get into the Planning meeting, that can be like 12 hours by the time we get around, we get a plan built for the next 12-hour period, we invite the Operations folks to come in and be briefed on it, we get their concurrent on it, that they agree that's the way to go forward and then we execute that plan.

Typically the way I like to run an EOC is about in 12 hour shifts, like two shifts of 12, and a little half an hour overlap on each end so that you're back briefing each other as you do that shift change. As things slow down or it becomes more routine or it's going to be more long-term, we probably go to three eights if we need to maintain a 24-hour presence. Sometimes we'll just have a few elements there in the later evening hours. When we go back to daylight, we'll ramp back up, so it just depends on the situation.



Another thing to know about is we talked earlier about a lot of working together and we do a lot of that here in the region and I can tell you from having talked all over the country with people about how we do things here, we get a lot of questions exactly that. How do you pull that off. Some of our folks won't even talk to each other. How do you do that and I said, well, you know, first off I think there's a little bit of Midwest ethic that says we're going to play nice. That's always good, right. I know I like the Fire Chief's nomenclature lately, it has been a lot about playing nice. I think that's right. The other part is we've had our own events that although they're not a World Trade Center type event, those of us who have been around long to remember the Hyatt Regency collapse, that was an event that really those people now are in senior leadership roles that were line officers or line firemen at the time and they can hold that. Whatever we're talking about doing, whatever effort we're talking about putting out, they hold it up to that light. Would that have worked on that day and that really helps us narrow down what's feasible and practical and what's not.

So, how do we work together? We go from an Incident Command, which is typically a single person to a Unified Command, which might be multiple jurisdictions. Now, unfortunately, these events don't necessarily respect our jurisdictional boundaries, so how do we get everybody to play. Well, we put them all together in a room and say do you all agree that this is the direction we ought to go and what are we missing and then sometimes there needs to be a liaison officer. So, you see that on the right-hand side. We have lots of different terms, a MAC, a Multi-Agency Coordination Center. It's actually a MAC. We have Dispatch Centers who act as that resource finder until we get the EOC spooled up.

Jurisdictional EOCs, each jurisdiction in the metro here generally has one. Some of them are very simplistic. They would be in a room like this, some of them are as wonderful as ours is

downstairs and by that I really mean that. That's a lot of space and we take good advantage of it and we're going to continue to do that.

DOCs, if a department is the one who needs to have more resources, maybe it's just a fire event, they might open up their own departmental operations center. I know Olathe has one, several others do. The city of Kansas City, MO has one and every agency or department needs to decide if that's valuable to them, otherwise, they're more than welcome to come in and join us. That EOC can become theirs.

JIC, Joint Information Center, Joint Information Communications. That's a whole separate animal and we kind of like to keep them altogether so they can share information, make sure that each jurisdiction knows what the other one's going to push out to the public so we don't contradict each other. There's a lot of good social science out there about how people react to things. Everybody says the public will panic. The public just generally doesn't do that. Generally if they get misinformation or conflicting information, they tend to do nothing which can be just as bad for them. What we want to make sure is we aren't doing, that we aren't giving conflicting statements and the best way to do that is have those people who are putting those statements together work together to build a common language and common concepts to push out.


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NIMS Classes <https://training.fema.gov/eml.aspx>

Field Staff		EOC Staff		Position Specific Courses
G/E/L 400		G/E/L 2300		
G/E/L 300		IS-2200		
G/E/L 200				
IS-200				
IS-800				
IS-100				
IS-700				

NIMS Courses

Professional Development Series: The Professional Development Series includes seven Emergency Management Institute independent study courses that provide a well-rounded set of fundamentals for those in the emergency management profession. Many students build on this foundation to develop their careers.

After successfully completing all 7 required PDS courses through the Independent Study program, a PDS certificate is automatically issued via email to the email address provided on your last exam submission. Certificates have been completed for IS-230.d.

Fundamentals of Emergency Management to include new policy and guidance. The revised course will be interactive rather than self-study and is numbered IS-230.d Fundamentals of Emergency Management. Revisors have also been completed for IS-244.b Developing and Managing Volunteers to update the information and change to an interactive format.

Basic NIMS Class Structure

- IS-100.c: Introduction to Incident Command System, ICS-100 <https://training.fema.gov/coursesoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c>
- IS-200.b: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents <https://training.fema.gov/coursesoverview.aspx?code=IS-200.b>
- IS-700.b: National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction. <https://training.fema.gov/coursesoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.b>
- IS-800.c: National Response Framework, An Introduction <https://training.fema.gov/coursesoverview.aspx?code=IS-800.c>
- IS-2200: Basic EOC Operations: <https://training.fema.gov/coursesoverview.aspx?code=IS-2200>
- E/L/G 2200 Basic EOC Operations
- E/L/G 2300 Intermediate Emergency Operations Center Functions

Course Code	Course Title
IS-120.c	An Introduction to Exercises
IS-230.d	Fundamentals of Emergency Management
IS-235.c	Emergency Planning
IS-240.a	Leadership and Influence
IS-241.b	Decision Making and Problem Solving
IS-242.b	Effective Communication

The last part I would like to talk about is how you can make yourself better prepared because, again, you're not going to feel comfortable coming here if you're worried about what's going on elsewhere and one of those things is education. FEMA has developed a huge thousands of classes. They've spent our money wisely from my standpoint and they've done a good job of maintaining. In other words, updating them, keeping them fresh. Originally there were a lot of text and a few pictures. Now there's a lot of video, a lot of interactive multimedia going on in those classes. This

is the structure we ask a lot of folks to do, 100 and 700 are the classes that review the Incident Command System and the National—I'm looking for 700 on there. There it is, National Incident Management System, so NIMS and ICS and then 200 and 800 are next level of that. Those are great if you're out in the field. Having 100 and 700 I think is good for everybody, but once you get past that 200, 400, 300 those are really designed for people who are responders out in the field; however, there are a couple classes that you would greatly benefit from because they're designed specifically for people who are going to be in the EOC. One is the 2300 class, that's an in-person class, it's three days I think, so it's a big commitment to make, but it's worth it. You'll get a lot out of it if you can get to it, but you can start with the IS and IS stands for Independent Study. You do these online, you do them at your own pace, you can get a certification. Most of them are four hours or less and you can do them over time. You can take an hour a night or something. I know you guys read lots of stuff and have lots of commitments on your time. I totally get that.

There's also a Professional Development Series. Actually there's now an Advanced Professional Development Series. Those are about Emergency Management some. More it's about leadership and it's a great thing to give even subordinates who want to learn how to better lead in these environments and so there's a lot of groups who use leadership and influence, decision-making, problem-solving, effective communication; that applies to almost everything we do, so you might take a look at that.

Additional Training

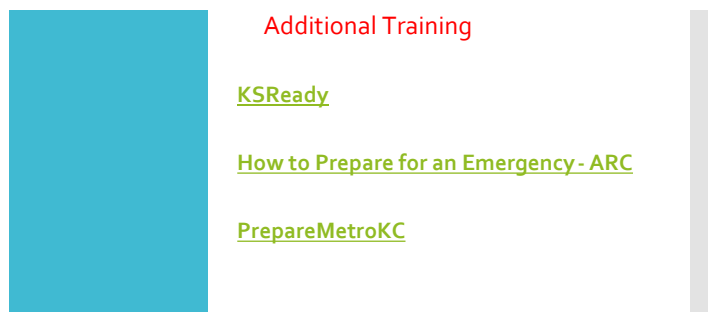
IS 0908: Emergency Management for Senior Officials
 The purpose of this course is to introduce senior officials to the important role they play in emergency management. The responsibility for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from incidents, both natural and manmade, begins at the local level – with individuals and public officials in the county, city, or town affected by the incident.

IS 2200: Basic Emergency Operations Center Functions
 The Basic Emergency Operations Center Functions course is designed to introduce the role, design, and function of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the supportive relationship as a NIMS Command and Coordination component of the Multiagency Coordination System.

• [Emergency Management Institute | Independent Study Program \(IS\) \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-institute/independent-study-program)

These are the two I would highly recommend for everybody today in the room. There is a full class that basically is this very short and truncated version called 908 Emergency Management for Senior Officials. Again, that's an independent study class, take that at your leisure and it'll give you kind of a more deep dive into what we kind of barely touched on today. Then again, that IS

2200 gives you an idea about how an EOC operates and what its goals and objectives are and know that we are set up following the guidelines that are in 2200 pretty closely if you look at it as an ICS like setup.



Lastly, prepare yourself, get some education, decide what's important. I always tell people I have to be better prepared than everybody else in the room because I have to be ready to come over here when everybody else is going away as they should and that includes my wife. You know I get her prepared. I know what she's going to do. When my in-laws were still here we knew we were going to pick them up and we were going to go and we had places to go down in Linn County and that seemed like it might be far enough away until Wolf Creek does something bad and then we want to go the other direction. It's all situationally dependent, but be prepared for that. Know what your plan is. It doesn't have to be terribly complex, but don't hide that plan either and one of my favorite ones is communications. Who knows you're okay. Tell somebody way far away from the event, Aunt Matilda, grandma, whomever and then make sure everybody else knows to check in with them too, so even if you can't get together. I worked an event down in Florida and in south Georgia where the Flint River had exceeded its banks and every single bridge was out. You had to go 200 miles to get around and so what happened is people got caught on either side and they didn't know if one was okay or the other was okay, but they weren't without resources, they just didn't know where to call them and this was long before there was a good population of cell phones, and yes, I'm that old. So, call somebody and let them know. Have that other person call somebody and let them know. Aunt Matilda will know and then she'll be able to tell you all and you'll call her again in an hour and find out everybody checked in, everybody's fine, here's where they are and they'll get over to you as soon as they can.

So, just a tip like that about things to do to prepare yourself. What you want to pack out, a go kit is incredibly important. I tend to build mine in old leftover gym bags. You can look at me and see most of my gym bags don't get used a lot and what you might ask, what should I put in it. I will tell you if you Google go jump bag or go bag or go kit, you will find thousands of ideas, but the top 20 items will be the same in every single one. It'll be clothes, it'll be a change of shoes. For whatever reason these things happen and you end up scampering downstairs in the basement in your bare feet or slippers. Put an old pair of tennis shoes in there, you're going to be appreciative of that. Medicines, take a 30-day supply, something. Throw it in. That's harder to get nowadays. Most insurance companies don't want to give more than a 30-day supply out, but if you explain that that's what you're using it for and then remember to rotate back. Take that out, use it and then put new stuff back in. All of those ideas are at these three sites and, again, if you look at your electronic copy of this, Kansas Ready has a great list of stuff. The Red Cross has some awesome stuff.

If you want notifications, that's another great tool. They have a tool called Red Cross Ready I think is the title of it, but if you do Red Cross in an app, it has the ability to tell you when there's tornado warnings out. I always talk about warnings like that as a picture puzzle. The more pieces you have to the puzzle, the better idea you have about what's going on. It creates what we call a common operating picture and so do them all, look for our notifications, listen for the outdoor warning sirens. All that's going to do is tell you something bad is happening and you need to go and find out what it is and take cover and do that simultaneously. Weather radio is another great source of information. There are a ton of apps out there that you can look at that will tell you stuff. Weather Channel has a great one, but that Red Cross one is one of the best that we've found as far as getting the notifications from National Weather and putting them out there. You can put up, I think, up to five different addresses, but it doesn't have to be here. Again, I try to keep tabs on my mom. That's challenging at times and she's in southeast Michigan, so I put her address in there and so I get these messages when nothing else is going on around here because I'm getting a message that they're having a rough time. Then I have to call her and say are you doing what you're supposed to do and sometimes she does, sometimes she doesn't.

Then PrepareMetroKC, that's put out by the emergency managers. It is, again, a subset of MARC. We put data in there. It changes constantly. Of course when COVID was around, it was very COVID centric, that's all kind of dropped off, we're back to rebuilding it to be kind of

an all hazards site, but all that stuff is always there. You just have to kind of dig for it, but those go kits suggestions, all that kind of thing, it's all great.



Questions, thoughts, concerns.

Commissioner Ramirez said thank you for the presentation and for all you do. I think the previous Commission we had a crash course in Emergency Management and the planning phases when COVID hit our community. I definitely did. I was two months into my first term when COVID happened and having to deal with the crisis and all. I have several questions I'll quickly go through. I made a couple notes. For the slide that shows the top five threats and hazards, the number three was the utility infrastructure failure due to, you know, in '21 what happened with the SPP in Texas. Do we know if Texas has done what they need to do to ensure that doesn't happen again? **Mr. May** said right up until you said need to do I was going good. Yes, they've made changes, things are different. I think that the industry was allowed to do some things that they probably shouldn't have been allowed to do as monopolies and I don't think we're going to see that happen again, but it's not impossible. I think everybody agrees that our climatological situation is different. They're getting different types of storms, deep cold weather strikes, and that impacts them. I think they're going to plan towards that, but that takes a long time to get from that threat to a finished increased capacity. So, I would say that's still a possibility, it's probably not near as much as it was before. I think they're paying more attention to it and certainly we are. I've learned how to watch that better myself.

Commissioner Ramirez said good. Going back to use the concurrent, not concurrent, the circles within the circles to show the different—how to receive the resources. Like you use

the scenario if you need 10 forklifts, now do you go out to just any business, any organization that has forklifts and ask if you can use them or how does that work? **Mr. May** said it depends on what it is. There are some things that we know we're going to need. We've already made arrangements with them like generators is one of my favorite examples, so we've already talked to some of the rental agencies and said will you make sure to set aside x number of units for us and we have to make commitments to them to do that. When we see the need coming, if we do, hey, are you ready for tomorrow because we'd like to set aside 10 gen sets and we try to spread that work out because we don't want everybody to be depleted. We want them to continue to do their business, but we also want to make sure that they have what we need too. Generators are not generators. There's a whole bunch of different kinds and you have to know what to do with them and do we have the electricians to hook them up properly and so forth and so on. That's just one example of a multitude of different things that we have a list of resources.

Another one of my favorites is, if you're not familiar with the New Madrid Fault over on the east side of Missouri, that's going to be a huge problem for us. We've all now gotten to experience at least indirectly or directly what it looks like when 600,000 people go down to Liberty Memorial. That's kind of a mess and that's probably what's going to happen to us if we have a large scale New Madrid Vault response because those people are going to get stuck on this side of the river and they're not going to have any resources until they—well, they'll be lucky if they get resources even in Columbia. They're going to be coming this way looking for stuff. They're going to be looking for gasoline, they're going to be looking for a place to stay, they're going to be looking for dialysis. One of my favorite ones because we really don't have enough capacity there and so how do we make sure that we've got what they're going to need, so in that particular example fuel is a big issue, so are there going to be enough gas stations that have power. Without power they're not pumping anything, so can we take an 8,000 gallon tanker and turn it into a pump, yep, sure can without power because it gravity feeds. Is it slow, yes. Does it have challenges, yes, but if that's the only way we're going to get it done.

I actually have a list. I think last time I counted we have eight vendors who have that kind of capacity. What if we have vehicles and generators and things out in the field that need to be refilled, they need to have their oil changed, we've got people who can do that. That's a different list, so we try to keep up on that. I will tell you that's one of the biggest challenges we have. Susan gets stuck with this a lot, keeping up with that list, making sure they're current. Oh,

that guy went out of business, okay, who took over, who's a better solution, who has a unique solution. We're constantly working to make sure that we have the best information. We rely very heavily on our subject matter experts, so you know if we need something to support Fire, we're going to lean back on the fire guys and say you got to tell us where to find that. How many more ambulances do we need, well fortunately, in the state of Kansas we have a statewide organization that is prepared to help acquire and deploy additional resources. I saw that work very well down in Greensburg. We had more ambulances down there than we'd ever imagined we could muster and they were often the only—we were talking earlier about the fact that it gets very dark when you go to a place like that that has no power and no lights. It's really hard to navigate and it turned out that the ambulances had the best lighting so they had lights not only on the front and back, but on the sides as well. So, those are all the kind of resources we have to look towards.

Commissioner Ramirez said I just have two more and I'm done. I think the mass notification, I know that is something you and I have had a conversation with Krystal McFeders, as well we've had that conversation and I've had conversation with Commissioner Bynum about the idea and I think it's very needed. I know we have notification systems within for internal use and for team notifications as was stated. I think it's highly, highly beneficial if we had a mass notification system just as Johnson County does. I believe that is something and I hope with Administration that is something we can bring forward soon and hopefully within this year's budget so that we can fund something like that because we all are elected to be part of this government and we are in charge of the safety, health and wellbeing of our community. I highly, highly encourage that we really look into this and come up with a way we can create a mass notification system.

The last thing goes to when an incident happens, the briefings and all of the meetings, that happened within—that goes along with that incident, is it common, because I know a lot of information is shared, things happen, things change within minutes, seconds, is it common throughout when briefings are happening, notes are taken, and then those notes are shared with the elected policymaking body? **Mr. May** said absolutely. They do get notated. I will also tell you that because we're usually under a time situation with those, they don't tend to be terribly verbose, so there might be a need to go to that particular ESF and say can you explain to me exactly how you're getting this done, but the goal or the objective or the mission will be laid out and that's for sure and then even down to the task although sometimes the tasks get kind of clumped together to

be honest with you. That documentation builds on itself so that becomes an Incident Support Plan and that's here's this stack and then the next day we add to that so that stack kind of grows over time. I think the Greensburg Incident Action Plan, again, similar was over a thousand pages when they got down to the last days. It can be quite hefty, but it gives you the whole book. You can see it from day one to day whatever and if you really are interested and you're really digging in, how did we get to where we are today because we started out here and the book becomes not only an operational document, which is what it's really intended to be, but also becomes a historical document. **Commissioner Ramirez** said thank you again and for all you do.

Commissioner Bynum said, Mr. Mays and Ms. McMahan thanks for all you do, I have a real appreciation for your department. I think it's because my neighborhood was impacted and my household was impacted by the '03 tornado and I think that's kind of what heightened my awareness way back when. You have in the slide deck your organizational chart. You're authorized for five positions. Is that correct and you're at three out of the five. **Mr. May** said that is correct. **Commissioner Bynum** said you're at 60% staff right now. **Mr. May** said correct. **Commissioner Bynum** said as far as the two vacant, are there applicants on the horizon or what's up with that? **Mr. May** said I will be very honest with you. I've had the admin position open for several months. I had an applicant, she chose to go to another department here in the UG and I understand that. It gave her something she was looking for and since then I really haven't gotten what I would call a quality applicant. This is not just answering the phones kind of job. This is somebody who's going to be managing our grant programs. In an ideal world they would probably be an accountant and have that background so that they can help us get through those financial documentation issues which, you know, the UG with Workday and so forth have made that better certainly, but it's still a lot of work and we're in the middle of one right now that's a public assistance grant that we're trying to collect back money on, get reimbursed on for expenses that we had back in July.

We're meeting literally every week with the feds to talk about that and see where we are and what documentation we need. If we have somebody who's, you know, a good portion of their job is to manage that for us down there, it really frees us up, Susan, myself and others to do the more boots on the ground kind of work, if they're doing that. I think the problem that we have is that we probably need to look at that market from a different lens and not just look at it by the title

which is an Administrative Assistant. It's much more than that and I think that's because our environment down there in the basement is very unique and we ask a lot more of people. The gentleman we have right now who's supporting our radio system really doesn't have a ton of radio system experience, but he has a great organizational background, so we're leveraging what he has to get us to where we want to be. He's going to learn tomorrow how to update our licenses in the FCC database, so he's learning. We were lucky to find him and in his willingness to take that position for what it was and then make it into something, that's what we need, so there's challenges ahead. **Commissioner Bynum** said and yet at the same time you're actively trying to fill the two positions you have. **Mr. May** said we are.

Commissioner Bynum said my other question is, will you be taking this presentation and opportunity for training to the Bonner Springs and Edwardsville City Councils so that they too can be looped in on all of this? **Mr. May** said if you think it's appropriate, I absolutely will offer to them because they're just as likely to be in the EOC as any of you. **Commissioner Bynum** said I think it would be great to approach them in whatever way is appropriate to ask to be on their agenda to bring this to them however that's appropriate.

Commissioner Townsend said I've got a lot of questions. As I think about disasters, I lived in New Orleans for a while, so I'm recalling what happened there and trying to figure out what is the role of government, us, compared to what we—and you alluded this earlier, as individuals have to take responsibility for. I guess my first question would be in the event, heaven forbid, of a disaster that impacts this building, what would be the alternative plan for a command center? **Mr. May** said that's an excellent question and we actually got to exercise that about the last 35-40 days because we got flooded out of our spaces. That really was most impactful for us and a few other of the departments like the mailroom at the Clerk's Office and so forth. We already had a plan developed. We had worked with our partners at the Speedway and they offered us their space and we camped out there for several weeks and we just recently got back last week. Even now we're still very much in a rebuilding process down there, but we were lacking some resources. I think we all feel better now being back in our spaces, but we do have to have a plan and that's really a departmental plan and a lot of departments—Susan handles us. We call this COOP or Continuity of Operations and she's been working with them to help develop their own plans. We obviously can't go out there. The reason that worked good for us is because we do it twice a year anyway.

We're out for every race. We set up out there and so I said guys, you need to go out there and set up. I got to go do this, they did that and in four or five hours we were operational out there. We could have conducted—a little bit smaller one but we could have conducted a fully EOC, so it's about looking at, again, going back to Mike Selves statement, don't sit here and think that it can't happen. It's a lack of imagination that sometimes catches us flatfooted and yet we look at every one of these events as an opportunity to learn and so we've already got a list of things we're going to do differently the next time if we have to it and how we're going to prepare better, but we've got some work to do downstairs. We're still in recovery. **Commissioner Townsend** said I'm glad that worked out for you all.

The broader question is, heaven forbid, this entire building. You talked about the Joplin tornado. I remember that basically leveled the whole city. Do we have alternative plans for continuity to set up somewhere else? **Mr. May** said absolutely. I'll let Susan speak to that because that's really her dig.

Susan McMahan, Deputy Director/Planning Emergency Management, said with that, that was where that Continuity of Operations comes into. We got to test that during COVID, so they hadn't worked from home before and we were able to acquire laptops and all the equipment that our employees that needed to be able to work from home and it was a brand new transition that our employees really never had worked through before and they adjusted and adapted very well for those that could. The others we mitigated this situation and we rotated teams. You know if we have another building that only 20 people can fit in, then break your department up into teams, A team, B team, C team and only these many people come in that day and the rest work from home the rest of the time. We have, working with HR, I have worked with Erin Riley recently and we have requested Emergency Action Plans from every department in every building so if your Public Works is at this building and your Public Works is over here, you have to have two different plans and it's for each building and for each department. We have about, I want to say, 105 to 110 plans that he is grading and we are going to put those into our Continuity of Operations Plan too.

We have adapted very well over the last three years as a governmental entity. It's just like when I posted something on LinkedIn and it was about resiliency and about how we COOP every night from our office because we have go bags that we have that has everything in it that we

have to do our job and we take that with us every night. It does not stay here, so we can work from anywhere and do our job. Those are the kind of things we're trying to get departments to practice.

Commissioner Lopez said God forbid things go south and you guys are fully implemented, which I'm grateful that we have a plan and I've been downstairs, it's been awesome. I think you're the right man for this job, but also at what point if some kind of emergency or whatever, at what point do we have to call the National Guard. I mean like what point do you—like where do you have to get or can you call them at any point, but then like where are we at when that happens? **Mr. Mays** said once we have that declaration in play, and that's pretty easy to do it, it doesn't take much time to write that up and get it sent to the State and then we can start to request that type of resource. I would caution that most people think the National Guard just shows up for free. That is not true. There is a very substantial bill that comes with that because just to bring in even a small, let's say, a civil unrest kind of an event where you need a small augmentation of peacekeeping force, typically that's about 200 because it's not just the guys standing out there on the street that you see. There's a whole lot of people behind them whether they're cooks, drivers, whatever that come with them and it's usually a minimum of a one week commitment and the last time I checked that bill goes about \$400,000-\$500,000 and that's my role to bring you the good news and the bad news. Good news is can we get it, bad news is yes, but it comes with a price.

Secondarily, now if the State decides they want to support that, then they can pick that up. That's a negotiation to be made, but it depends on the type of event it is and how they see that resource being used. The second thing is, that monster doesn't move on a dime. It takes a while to get that spooled up, so it's not going to be a 24-hour response.

There's very few things that the military whether it's State Guard or National or Federal that they can produce people in a very short notice. Urban Search and Rescue is one of those teams. Fortunately, we have one in Booneville, it's based out of Booneville, but they're spread around this area. So those people if we had a building, let's take this one, if this building were to collapse and there would be a rescue that needed to be done, they are specialists in being able to go into a compromised building like that and be able to find the people who are still alive and can be rescued and get them out. That group generally can respond in 24 hours and that is still 24 hours, that's a long time, so we have to consider what all those resources look like and that's where we're going to come to you. We think this is what, you know, talking to the subject matter experts

this is what we need and we're going to put it at your table to say should we move forward. Once we get a nod of yes or no, we take that back into the EOC and we tell our partners to go after it and get it done. So, that's kind of how that works. There's resources to be had, but they all have a little bit of this and a little bit of that, that you've got to be aware of.

Commissioner Lopez asked, did you say Booneville? **Mr. Mays** said Boonville, Missouri. **Commissioner Lopez** said Booneville, Missouri where there's farms and no buildings and they're specialists in recovery from a collapsed building. **Mr. Mays** said that's where they are. They're regional and I forget, I want to say they're broken up into 10 regions like the rest of the world, but that's where their regional headquarters is, but it's really just a warehouse. It's where they keep all their stuff. People come from Fire Departments mostly, but other places, from all over the Midwest. They'll come from Chicago. They usually give them a four or six hour response time. You grab your bag, you throw it in the truck and you go. I used to personally serve on a DMAT Team, Disaster Medical Assistance Team. There was one based out of St. Louis, but we had a Kansas City branch and we had a branch down in Taney County in southern Missouri and, unfortunately, because of my responsibilities here I really don't have an opportunity to deploy with them much, but that was the same group that we had at the most recent Chiefs event and they were very instrumental in, I think, if not saving lives, certainly helping people be more mobile and get out and not put the load on the hospital. They are very good at that and they are rolling hospitals. They are Mash for lack of a better term. There's all sorts of resources like that.

Commissioner Hill said thank you all for the work you do and for what you've revealed to us tonight. One question that might be a little bit unfair to ask, but if you don't mind in just a short verbal answer, even though it's a big question, here we go. I went to Joplin when they had the big tornado and the streets were unidentifiable and FEMA was out there and I'm sure there were other local officials, but I just didn't recognize any. I would like to know from you all if there was a tornado say tonight, massive as the one in Joplin, what would be done ASAP and then where would you start? **Mr. Mays** said remember that list of priorities, we know what that list looks like, at least the top four or five. One of them at the very top always is life, safety and protection, so we're not only going to look at the people who might be injured out in the field, the citizens, but we're also going to look at our responders and say make sure that you're doing this, but you're doing it in a way that you're not going to add to the problem by getting injured or hurt. We understand.

Believe me, every one of those people are in those jobs because they want to help other people, sometimes they tend to push too hard. The way to overcome that is make sure they have enough of them. We don't want them out in it too long, we don't want them burning themselves out and so we have plans for that. So while that first crew is out there doing their job, we're working on how we're going to have a second crew and how we're going to have a fourth and a fifth crew and how we are going to rotate them all the way out and bring in a whole other team.

Again, the resources we have in this region are astronomical and we do a great job of working together. Every one of our Hazmat teams, for example, trains together. That's from all over the metro and that makes it so that it's simple. We buy the same equipment so that John can come in and replace Joe or Bob or Cindy and they all know how to run the same gear. You've had that up for so long we need to fix it out, we need to swap it, whatever. All that education can take place and I think that's our very first thing we're going to look at and then from there there's kind of a bit of a Maslow's-type hierarchy. So now, where are they going to sleep, where are we going to set up shelters, all that's happening. Susan's got different people in different boxes in that org chart doing those different things, so we're looking at all that simultaneously. We've run it through as an exercise before so nothing really should be a surprise, but every disaster is different. If you've been to one disaster, you've been in one disaster, so we have to be prepared for the unknown.

Does that get to your question? I mean it's a big question, and you're right, but it's all about doing exactly what we're doing tonight, preparedness. If you got your head wrapped around this just a little bit, you're better off than you were yesterday and I want you to come down there with a comfort level that we're going to not put you in a bad situation. We're going to put you in a place where you can do well and do good for your people and our people and everybody's people.

Commissioner Hill said I got a bazillion other things, but it will take too long, so thank you. **Mr. Mays** said reach back to us please.

Administrator Johnston said when I managed a community in the Seattle area our community really embraced Community Emergency Response Teams. I believe we have a CERT Program locally. **Mr. May** said we do. **Administrator Johnston** said what's really interesting about CERT, when a disaster strikes you try to stabilize your own neighborhood, so there's opportunity through CERT for regular citizens to create their own many response teams to help the bigger folks

stabilize the neighborhood, inventory the neighborhood because eventually they're going to come in to what's going on and you can be informed and say, hey, those three houses need to have their gases turned off because the fire is too close, those types of things. We found five bodies, we got them over here.

How active is our CERT Program? **Mr. Mays** said I will tell you that it's not where I'd like it to be. In the past we've had as many as 70 members on our roster. I would tell you right now we're probably at about 20 or 25 and a lot of that had to do with COVID. It was really devastational and I wish it was just us, but it's not. I've talked to my colleagues across the state and on the other side of the state line, they all felt the same way that COVID made it difficult for them to want to come back out. They tend to be retired folks, but not always. We'd like to have a better, broader breadth of capabilities physically and mentally. We're rebuilding now.

We have a class scheduled for the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th of March that we're going to do here. That's a little bit different format than we've done in the past because of the feedback we got. We had some people who signed up and then said I just can't do it and then you find out it's because they can't do three Saturday's in a row which is what we were doing before. So, we always have to be paying attention to that and make sure we're getting good feedback and we said can we do it this way. If we do it on one weekend, you've only lost one weekend, but we're going to do them Friday night, Saturday all day, and Sunday afternoon and we're going to see how that works, but it's going to be right here. We're going to do it right here in the building in the EOC. We're trying to get our space cleaned up well enough down there in two weeks to have class, so we'll see how that goes. I'm sure we can find another space. We meet as a group out at the NRC and that's been an awesome resource because it's geographically central. It takes less load off the folks coming from the west, but all of our equipment to do this training is all here and so it's just a little easier to do it here.

Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs asked, Commissioner Ramirez, do you have another comment?

Commissioner Ramirez said I did, but more question now. You're talking about the CERT class. Is it required that you attend all three sessions? **Mr. Mays** said to get the certification yes, but it doesn't mean we can't do it over time. We've got two classes scheduled for this year, so if somebody had to miss a day, they could pick that up in the later fall class.

Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs said thank you for your overview. A question I would have, you mentioned something about the \$400,000-\$500,000 it would take to call in—I think the scenario was the National Guard. **Mr. May** said right. **Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs** said under the financial constraints of the Unified Government or any municipality, would there be reluctance on a Director such as yourself or someone in that capacity to not want to do that because of the financial hit to the community? **Mr. Mays** said it's never going to be a reluctance on my part to do it. What my job is to give you the options and let this organization make these decisions.

Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs said and if I may, would it be prudent for a community of the first class or any community for that matter, to set aside a contingency reserve that would address an emergency situation that we've just discussed tonight? **Mr. Mays** said I've seen it done lots of ways and I think lots of jurisdictions do it a little differently, so I would say having a fund—we've even talked about it in state legislation this year and I represent the Kansas Emergency Managers Association as their legislative liaison and they are trying to develop that at the State level too. There's a bill that has, I think, the initial startup is \$10M set aside to help fill the gap especially for smaller jurisdictions who can't meet the match because there's a match element to it. I think we have to look at how—I mean whether we like it or not, it all is going to cost something somewhere. **Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs** said sure and it wouldn't just be the small communities that couldn't do it. I think there's economically distressed communities. Communities that have more volatile chemicals and industry within their borders that would be at greater risk and would need additional resources besides what we can have on hand in a consistent manner.

Administrator Johnston said I just want to add to that. I don't think there's ever a reluctance for us to bring in more resources in our community. We do have to be careful about the ability to pay for that, but when the focus is on the people that's where our relationship with our higher up governments come into play because if we have a disaster that is significant, we need to get our proclamation to the State immediately and then the Governor has to make a state—is it severe enough for State action. That means not only do we show them why it's important for us, but why it's important for the State. Once we get that proclamation as Matt was talking about, they will then have the ability to send the resources to us, not necessarily charge us, because the Governor is saying activate the National Guard. That's the State's response to us.

The same thing can happen at the Presidential level. The Governor sends both proclamations to the President's Office and the President with his aids comes up and say this needs a national response and if he activates the Guard, the federal government will, more by and large, will pay those things. I've been to many trainings where there is a temptation for the local government to show response to its citizens, let's call the Guard, but then when they see the cost they say let's try to get the attention of the State. So, there is a process and actually that goes fairly quickly because it's all focusing on responding to the incident and so if we get our thing together to the Governor, the Governor will take assessment and either she'll make an action—if it's really bad like a tornado, you'll see FEMA be activated by the President and National Guard to respond to community needs.

The Incident Commands—or the NIMS Program that Matt talks about, there is so much order throughout the bureaucracies that says if this scenario happens, boom, boom, boom, boom and who's responsible for those. It is remarkable if you really want to be part of that, the resources that Matt articulated at the end of this little manual, it is eye opening and then, again, if you want to be more local, Matt talked about our CERT Program. We need more citizens involved to take care of their neighborhoods and help us out in their neighborhoods, so anyway we could get the word out for that opportunity, please get in touch with our Emergency Management Director and we can have the safest community, most responsive community we can have. You know it does go down to resources and some of that's human. If we don't have the human resources, we're limited. If we don't have the finances, we're limited, but I think what you heard today is we have a dedicated staff. We will activate and work with our regional partners to respond if and when it happens here.

Mr. Mays said my last thought about that is that we have a lot of resources within this region, probably more in some cases than the state could supply us, so we're always going to look local and we're going to try and make sure we can do it and the Mutual Aid Agreements that are out there amongst us are substantial so we can do a lot of this without anything more than a handshake and thank you.

Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs asked any other comments, questions from the committee. Seeing none with no further business to come before the Governing Body, I will adjourn the Special Meeting. I would entertain a motion for adjournment.

Commissioner Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to adjourn. Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Ramirez, Hill, Kane, Lopez, Bynum, Townsend, Burns.

**MAYOR PRO TEM BURROUGHS AJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 6:18 p.m.**

Monica L. Sparks
Interim Unified Government Clerk

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March 7, 2024