

Those in Attendance-

Peyton Kessler – Cherokee County Health Department
Terry Clugston – Cherokee County Sheriff's Office / Cherokee County Ambulance Association
Matt Haviland – Cherokee County Emergency Management
Nate Jones – Cherokee County Sheriff's Office
Christopher Killebrew – Jayhawk Fine Chemicals
Richard Matteson – Jayhawk Fine Chemicals
Toni Speith – Cherokee County Partnership for All Cherokee County Children
David Groves – Cherokee County Sheriff's Office
Stacy Manbeck – Spring River Mental Health and Wellness
Steve Kreeger – SkyWarn System
Steven Burton – Columbus Fire Department
Kyle Perez – National Weather Service
Todd Campbell – Environmental Protection Administration
Rob Hance – Mercy Maude Norton Hospital
Nate Jones – Cherokee County Sheriff's Office
Josh Smith – KDEM
Bill McLaughlin – Southern Star
Grace Chapin – Southern Star
Matthe Livingston – Liberty Utilities

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matteson and the previous meeting minutes were approved.

There were no chemical related incidents reported in the county since the previous meeting.

Old Business –

Radio Grant – Cherokee County Sheriff's Office received the grant and are awaiting arrival of equipment.

Red Cross Volunteer Effort – Cherokee County Sheriff's Office has reached out regarding the Smoke Alarm Program through Red Cross and are awaiting additional information.

New Business –

Southern Star Representatives attended the meeting to discuss pipelines throughout the region and emergency response capabilities to incidents. They are planning an upcoming demonstration and will provide the information to the LEPC so those interested in attending, can.

Liberty Utilities – Reported a recent incident in Barton County, where a wind turbine collapsed. In those situations, although the turbine is on the ground, there is still a lot of electricity going through it so caution should be taken if an incident occurs. There is also a considerable amount of oil within the turbine, which could prompt a chemical related spill response.

National Weather Service – Advised the LEPC that they have capabilities to provide data down to the street level, where potential impact zones would be in the event of a hazardous material leak / incident.

Agency Reports –

Sheriff's Office –

Big Brutus will be having some upcoming events. The Sheriff's Office recently visited with them about storm response for visitors.

Sheriff Groves also reported that Deputy Julie Miller has been appointed the Community Outreach Deputy and will be starting that new role soon.

The Sheriff's Office also recently conducted a Command Staff Tabletop Exercise related to Active Shooter.

EMS –

The Cherokee County Ambulance service ran 356 calls last month, 156 were no transport responses. Top hospital destinations are Mercy Joplin, Freeman, Via Christi, and Mercy Columbus.

Health Department – They had a recent possible measles case in the county. Covid-19 is back on the rise. What they are seeing is a re-surgency of the original virus, particularly for children under 2 years old and elderly. The health department offers vaccine for those interested. Administrator Kessler recommended those who have contact with a lot of people, particularly daycare workers and nurses get vaccinated.

Emergency Management – Emergency Manager Haviland has been working on increasing the number of subscribers to the Nixle Mass Alert System.

Other –

Next regularly scheduled meeting is March 5th, 2024 at 9:00am. The meeting will be held at the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office, located at 915 East Country Road in Columbus.