
COWLEY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



2019 Annual Report

The vision of Emergency Management is that Cowley County, Kansas will be a community of cities and citizens who are disaster aware and disaster prepared.

2/3/2020



Cowley County Emergency Management's seventh annual report is now available. This report will highlight activities, accomplishments and an overall review of the Emergency Management program.

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Director

John Stradal, KCEM
Assistant Coordinator

Jason Kazban, KCEM, MEP
EM Specialist

Taylor Dory, KCEM
Volunteer Coordinator

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Crystal Merz
Secretary-Treasurer

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

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Glenda Schmidt
Treasurer

Ron Upton
Communications Officer

Crystal Merz
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Steve Williams
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Animal Response Team (CART)

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Randy Storey
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Cowley County Emergency Management's Mission is:

To save lives, protect property and reduce the impacts of disasters through the mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery phases of Emergency Management.

Accomplishments and Highlights

Brian Stone, CEM®, KCEM - Director

Brian had the privilege of being part of the team to present a portion of the “State of the County” address to local citizens. The primary portion of the presentation was conducted by the Chair of the County Commission giving an overview of County government operations and the financial status. Brian covered the May flooding event.

Brian was selected by the Kansas Emergency Management Association (KEMA) Board of Directors to represent the organization as a member of the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) Board of Directors. He has now served one year of at least a two-year term.

Brian successfully completed the Advanced Public Information Officer training course at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI), which is part of the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, MD during the summer. Brian, along with County Administrator Lucas Goff, are the only two Cowley County employees trained to that level.

John Stradal, KCEM - Assistant Coordinator

John continues to serve as the Vice-President for the South Central Region of the Kansas Emergency Management Association, representing the region as one of 11 members on the KEMA Board of Directors. He is also involved with the Cowley County Amateur Radio Club, and works with this organization to build and enhance communications capabilities within the county.

Jason Kazban, KCEM, MEP - EM Specialist

Jason, who performs duties as an Emergency Management Specialist, continues to serve on the Board of Directors for Leadership Cowley County (LCC). He is an instructor on the LCC curriculum committee as well. Jason is also a member of KAPIO (Kansas Association of Public Information Officers) and the local Cowley County PIO group.

Taylor Dory, KCEM - Volunteer Coordinator

Taylor has worked hard since he began his career with Emergency Management in early 2017. He successfully received his Kansas Certified Emergency Manager (KCEM) professional certification through the Kansas Emergency Management Association. The KCEM is a certificate only bestowed upon those who have met specific requirements including employment, experience and professional training and education.

Cowley County EM

In July, the Winfield Area Chamber of Commerce presented Cowley County and Cowley County Emergency Management with the Chamber Champion Award for our combined efforts during the flooding event in May.



July 2019 – Presentation of Chamber Champion Award at Cowley College in Arkansas City

L-R: Sara Williams, Wayne Wilt, Lucas Goff, Alan Groom, Brian Stone, Cory Helmer, Bob Voegelé, Anthony Stonerock, Sarah Werner and Dr. Dennis Rittle.

Emergency Management Volunteer Groups

When emergencies occur or disasters strike, volunteers are a welcome sight for EM Staff and a vital resource for all agencies. Volunteers are a crucial part of the Emergency Management program as they are willing to endure the worst conditions to help out when needed. Volunteers give their time and effort without expecting anything in return.

COWLEY COUNTY EMERGENCY AUXILIARY (CCEA)



The Cowley County Emergency Auxiliary is a volunteer based group that acts under the direction of Cowley County Emergency Management. The group dates back to August 8th 1985. The CCEA's primary role at this time is to provide trained storm spotters for Cowley County. This elite group of volunteers donates their valuable time and provides a commitment to ensure the safety of Cowley County residents through early warnings and work closely with other public safety agencies within the county. The Cowley County Emergency Auxiliary continues to be a big part of the community by working with the public in weather and personal safety.

COWLEY COUNTY COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)



CERT training is available in Cowley County at least once a year for anyone interested in learning how they can make a difference in the lives of their family, their neighborhood, their community and beyond in case of a natural or manmade disaster. Our local CERT group is open to anyone who desires to receive such training, whether or not they choose to use the information gained to help themselves and family only, or are willing to be available for other volunteer opportunities. These volunteers often free up local police and others who would be paid for their time. CERT members receive monthly training to enhance or refresh skills learned in the original CERT training.

COWLEY COUNTY ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM (CART)



During natural disasters, people have refused to leave their homes when advised to do so because they will not leave their pets behind. As a result, states, and then counties, began to form animal response teams (SART and CART). The goal is to: identify shelters that will accept owners and their pets; arrange flexible visiting schedules if pets and owners cannot shelter together; and provide transportation and shelter for large animals.

RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICE (RACES)



In an effort to increase the County's ability to communicate in an emergency, the Cowley County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) Group was formed in 2014. RACES members use Amateur Radio to provide communications links to critical facilities when needed in a disaster, and can also provide additional communications when existing public safety infrastructure is overwhelmed or unavailable. Amateur Radio operators are still able to communicate when other means fail since they can create their own infrastructure, and can operate without having to depend on any existing communications systems. Since 2014, the RACES group has grown to 13 members, including 2 within the last year. RACES members continue to work with Emergency Management to enhance their skills and expand their capabilities. They participated in two large exercises in 2018, and were able to successfully test their existing capabilities as well as identify additional opportunities for development. Through their help, Cowley County continues to build a very robust backup communications network that will serve the county well in times of need.

COWLEY COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS, INC. (CCERV)

Cowley County Emergency Response Volunteer organizations came together in 2014 to form a 501(C)(3) nonprofit group. Participating emergency volunteer organizations include the Cowley County Emergency Auxiliary (CCEA), Cowley County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and the Cowley County Animal Response Team (CART). In 2016 RACES was added to the group. CCERV is comprised of two representatives from each organization, plus an at large member to work together providing information and to jointly support the goals of each. Through the efforts of all volunteer organization, money has been raised for the purchase of communication equipment needed for training purposes and made available when these volunteers are deployed in an emergency situation. Communication is a vital part of emergency response and this equipment is crucial to our volunteers. We are grateful for the support from community organizations, businesses and individuals.



Christmas Gathering

Volunteers from all Emergency Management groups and their guests attended the annual Christmas gathering at the EOC in lieu of their regular monthly meeting on December 10th. EM staff members provided meat, soups and drinks. Volunteers brought a sampling of their favorite finger foods and desserts to round out the menu. The groups use this time to visit with each other in a non-stressful environment.

Cowley County Meet and Greet

Cowley County Emergency Management hosted the Meet and Greet for all county departments and special guests on December 10th. Staff members provided a variety of cookies and drinks for those visiting the office. To create a festive holiday spirit, a winter fireplace was projected on one screen and falling snow into a creek covered by a stone arch bridge was projected on another while holiday songs played in the background.

What volunteers bring is the human touch, the individual, caring approach that no government program, however well-meaning and well-executed, can deliver.

~ Edward James Olmos

Fundraisers

For the seventh year in a row, CCEA, CERT, CART and RACES volunteers spearheaded the 5K/2M event at Dexter's annual BBQ on July 13th. All participants who pre-registered for the event were given a t-shirt and a finisher's medal. First, second and third place medals were given to runners in the men's and women's divisions. The bike patrol was an awesome group of energetic citizens, the City-Cowley County Health Department manned the hydration station. On the route, South Central Kansas Medical Center manned the hydration station at the start/finish line and the Winfield Fire/EMS Reserves provided medical services to the event. The emcee was courtesy of the Dexter Outreach Church. There was a drawing at the end of the race for prizes generously donated by businesses in Cowley County.



The event may not seem like something Emergency Management Volunteers would do, but there are some benefits. The groups get to practice their Incident Command System (ICS) skills, test out the communications plans and be a part of a small town activity.

For the 2019 race, there were 62 participants.



Community Outreach and Education

Public Education and Outreach

We believe that public education and outreach is a major part of our day to day duties in Emergency Management. While we cannot reach everybody, it is important to reach as many citizens as possible to share public safety tips and preparedness information. For 2019, we were able to conduct 22 separate outreach events to various agencies including: USD 470, Boy Scouts, Parents as First Teachers (PAFT), General Electric, Soroptomist, Resthaven, Cambridge Fire Department, Dexter Elementary School, Mosaic, Windsor Apartments and the Early Bird Lion's Club. In addition, we attended larger events such as a Career Expo and the Winfield Middle School Explore Day. Each activity we attend is an opportunity to educate or assist one our citizens and we truly enjoy every opportunity we have.

Health and Safety Fair

The annual Cowley County Health and Safety Fair was held at the Agri-Business Building in Arkansas City on April 27th from 9am to noon. All volunteer groups, with assistance from the Emergency Management staff, set up information tables and answered questions about the responsibilities and requirements of their respective groups. This was a great opportunity for all volunteers to be involved and take an active role in community education and preparedness.



EM Volunteer groups at the annual Health and Safety Fair.

Storm Fury on the Plains

The annual storm spotter training was held at the Cowley Cinema 8 Theater near Strother Field on Tuesday, February 27th. Two separate presentations were given by Chance Hayes, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Wichita. The 2:30pm presentation had 105 attendees and the 6:30pm presentation had 83 attendees for a total of 188. Twenty NOAA All-Hazard Weather Radios were given away during those sessions which now provide early severe weather warnings to that many new households in Cowley County.



EOC/911 School Tours

On October 10th and 24th, Eisenhower High School from Goddard, KS visited Cowley County and toured the EOC and 911 Communications Center. The tour groups consisted of high school freshman and there were a total of 38 visitors. The groups had the opportunity to hear about Emergency Management and what is done on a day to day basis and during disasters. They also learned the vital role that dispatchers play for the success of the entire emergency response system.

Alone we can do little; together we can do so much ~ Helen Keller

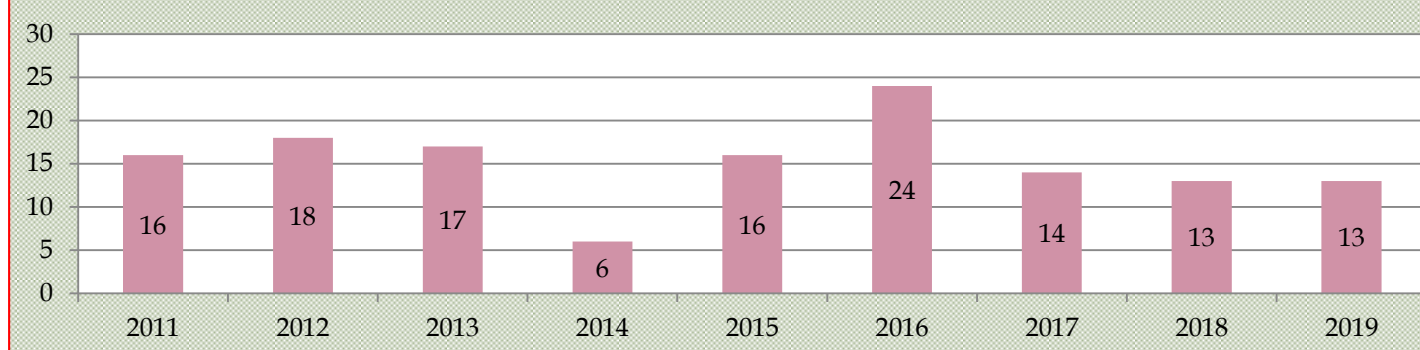
Severe Weather Operations

Cowley County EM, by use of the Emergency Operations Center, coordinates severe weather response activities. The EOC is the hub for all spotters, fire, law and citizens to submit reports. Outdoor Warning Sirens are sounded from the EOC and maintaining situational awareness during severe weather is a top priority for the citizens.

Severe Weather Statistics for 2019

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| EOC Activations: 13 | Time in the EOC: 169 hours and 58 minutes |
| Severe Thunderstorm Watches: 15 | Tornado Watches: 2 |
| Severe Thunderstorm Warnings: 22 | Tornado Warnings: 4 |
| Severe Hail Reports: 10 | Tornadoes: 0 |
| Severe Wind Reports: 5 | Significant Weather Advisories: 66 |

Historical Severe Weather Activations by Year 2011-2019



Communications

Amateur Radio Class

Cowley County Emergency Management, in cooperation with the Cowley County Amateur Radio Club, once again held a Technician Level Amateur Radio class in 2019. Amateur Radio is a form of two-way radio communication where licensed operators may communicate with other Amateur Radio operators both locally and around the world. Amateur Radio operators are often able to still communicate when other means fail, and have been valuable assets during many large-scale disasters. The class sessions were held during the month of March, and resulted in 4 new operators. Through classes held since 2011, the total number of new operators in Cowley County is now 90.

Field Day

Every year around the country during the last weekend in June, Amateur Radio operators, or Hams, participate in an event known as field day. The purpose of this event is to test the emergency communications capability of local Hams, usually from a location without any existing equipment installed.

In 2019, the Cowley County Amateur Radio Club again worked together with Cowley County Emergency Management to participate in the event. This year the group moved back to Lion's Club Park east of Arkansas City and as in years past, the Cowley County Mobile Command trailer was used as an operating position and for generator power. While stormy weather cut the event short this year, the group was still able to contact other participants nationwide, and as always learned a lesson or two along the way.

Preparedness

Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador

As a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador, Cowley County serves in a role in affecting societal change by helping build a nation that is ready, responsive, and resilient to the impacts of extreme weather and water events. As an Ambassador, we are committed to the following:



- 1) Promoting Weather-Ready Nation messages;
- 2) Engaging with NOAA personnel on potential collaboration opportunities;
- 3) Sharing our success stories of preparedness; and
- 4) Serving as an example by educating employees on workplace preparedness.

Cowley County was the first County in the South Central Region (and the 26-County Wichita Forecast Area) to become a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador. To date, there are 56 different agencies/entities in the State of Kansas that are Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors.

StormReady®

Cowley County is proud to be a StormReady® County since 1999. To remain a StormReady® community, Cowley County must adhere to the following guidelines:



- 1) Communication: establish a 24-hour warning point (CCEC) and establish an EOC;
- 2) NWS Information Reception: have 4 separate ways for the EOC/WP to receive NWS alerts;
- 3) Hydrometeorological Monitoring: have 3 separate ways to receive hydrometeorological data
- 4) Community Preparedness: have a minimum of 3 weather safety talks annually, train spotters and dispatchers biannually, and host an annual NWS spotter training; and
- 5) Administrative: have a formal hazardous weather operations plan, biennial visits by the Emergency Manager to the NWS, and an annual visit by NWS official to the community.

This year marks 20 years that Cowley County has been considered a StormReady® county.

As of the end of 2019, Kansas had 48 StormReady® designations, with 34 of those being Counties.

EXERCISES

Cowley County Emergency Management is dedicated to the training and exercising of the local community. Three exercises were performed with numerous community agencies and also state and federal partners. These exercises test capabilities from the National Preparedness Goal and were written to Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) standards. The lessons learned from these exercises are reviewed and a specific training program is authored to address the needed areas. This progressive approach enriches the community and ensures that Cowley County is ready to respond and recover from disasters.

Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan

Cowley County, in compliance with the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) requirements, worked to complete a multi-year training and exercise plan (during a Training and Exercise Planning Workshop) following the LEPC meeting in December. Entities and jurisdictions from all areas of Cowley County came together to develop a three year plan for training and exercising. Each entity has specific “requirements” for training and exercising. This concept pulls all entities together and works on a collective plan to suit the needs of all participants. This is the sixth year Cowley County has completed this plan, which is reviewed mid-year. This year’s workshop had representatives from fifteen separate entities which emphasizes the need for continued collaboration among all agencies.

Drip, Drip, Drip II (TTX)

On January 30th, 2019, Cowley County Emergency Management facilitated a Continuity of Operations (COOP) exercise for the Directors of various county agencies. This exercise is vital to the knowledge base of not only the Directors, but also to the employees for the agencies. There were 12 agencies represented that had their COOP plan in hand and worked through a challenging scenario that was based off of real world events from Montgomery County, Kansas. The participants were faced with various issues such office relocation, priority of tasks on a tiered schedule, specific computers/software that would need to be available to take or stored at an off-site location. Many lessons were learned and taken back to strengthen their already operational plans.



Back in Black II (TTX)

Cowley County has been taking a proactive approach to better the community by providing exercises tailored to fit many diverse disciplines. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) agencies had voiced the need for community based exercises that would test their plans, policies and procedures. On March 28th, 2019, CCEM hosted a table top exercise for 96 participants from numerous public and private entities. This large power outage exercise was conducted in the Wright room at Cowley College. The exercise prompted conversation of how would the medical facilities operate or relocate if necessary. Agencies with proven procedures shared with other agencies that were brainstorming ideas of how to improve. This type of exercise will be conducted annually to further grow the network of professionals and sharing of ideas that will make Cowley County a safer place for all of its citizens.



Musical Mayhem (TTX)

MUSICAL MAYHEM was conducted on June 28th, 2019. This exercise was a table top exercise that brought together the Walnut Valley Festival Leadership and security team to discuss plans with local community partners such as the fire department, law enforcement and emergency communications. The festival staff had many valuable take-aways. The agencies discussed how they would tactically integrate with first responders during a civil unrest in a heavily populated fairground area. There were many great points brought up and collaboration on different approaches of response. The festival staff was extremely appreciative of the Cowley County Emergency Management staff for authoring and facilitating the exercise for them.



Preparedness

"When you need it, but don't have it....you sing a different tune." ~ Burt Gummer

TRAINING

American Red Cross Disaster Action Team (DAT) Training

Disasters can occur at any time. The American Red Cross is always seeking volunteers to be a part of a volunteer cadre called DAT – Disaster Action Team. These dedicated individuals are taught to respond within their own communities on behalf of the American Red Cross to assist those affected by disasters. While DAT members can help with any disasters, one of their primary responses is to assist families affected by home fires. Cowley County was fortunate enough to host DAT training in May. Members of the American Red Cross strengthened their forces by training five new cadre members.



BNSF Rail Car Training

On February 25th, 2019 Cowley County Emergency Management hosted a Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) rail car training at the Winfield Fire Department. John Rode with Environmental Works came on behalf of BNSF and instructed the course. The course included learning about how each train is set up, the purpose of the setup, understanding what each type of car does, and understanding the manifest that a train has on board. Members from Cowley County Emergency Management, Winfield Fire Department, Cambridge Fire Department, and Emergency Management volunteer groups attended this course.



Westar (Evergy) Power Line Training

On April 23rd, & 24th, 2019 Cowley County Emergency Management facilitated Westar's power line training at the Arkansas City Fire Department. Several members from Westar came with a trailer that demonstrated the hazards of power lines to firefighters and volunteers. They covered safety techniques around them and emphasized contacting them before working around any lines. Several members from Cowley County Emergency Management, Arkansas City Fire Department, Burden Fire Department, Winfield Fire Department, and Emergency Management volunteers attended these classes.



WORKING WITH AND IN THE COMMUNITY

PIO Working Group

Formed in 2016, the PIO Working Group is comprised of Public Information and Public Relations Officers from entities across Cowley County. Our mission is to provide accurate information in a timely manner to help citizens make informed decisions.

Day to day events show us the need to disseminate information in a routine manner. However, emergency events or disasters dictate an immediate response to the community. Together, this group is learning to share resources, how to disseminate accurate information quickly, yet still remain responsible for their own jurisdiction.

The Cowley County PIO Working Group continues to grow and search for more ways to learn and improve their skills when dealing with the media and the general public.

NOAA Weather Radio Programming

Each year, Jay Prater, Certified Broadcast Meteorologist with KAKE-TV in Wichita, along with the National Weather Service, visit Cowley County to program NOAA Weather Radios. For 2019, this event was held in the Dillon's in Winfield. This is an opportunity for citizens to come meet Jay, visit with him and have their weather radios looked over and re-programmed if necessary. We'd like to thank Jay, the NWS and Dillon's for hosting this event.



Shelter Identification and Surveys

When disasters strike, bad things happen to good people and sometimes those people are left without adequate housing, even if only for a short time. Emergency Management assisted in expanding the list of partner agencies willing to serve as a post-event shelter. Those facilities that are new or updated are: Agri-Business Building (Ark City), Central Christian Church (Ark City), First American Baptist Church (Ark City), First United Methodist Church (Ark City), IXL School (Ark City), Northwest Community Center (Ark City), and the Joe Thornton Recreation Center (Winfield). These are truly community partners ready to step up at a moments' notice and provide temporary housing services for those affected by emergencies or disasters.



American Red Cross
representatives working
with local entities on
facility use agreements
and surveys.

Left: City of Ark City

Right: IXL School



NOTABLE EVENTS

Rain/Flood – May

Rain began to fall on April 28th and it just kept falling. On May 7th the rainfall got heavier as thunderstorms affected the county most of the day. As the day was coming to an end, the events were just beginning. That evening brought a train derailment south of Rock in northern Cowley County and the early morning hours of May 8th heated up with a tank battery fire east of Arkansas City. By the end of the day (May 8th), portions of Cowley County had 8-11” of rainfall. Roads were closed due to localized and river flooding. To make matters worse, Sumner County had similar rainfall which in turn closed US-81 and I-35. Northbound traffic was routed off of the Interstate and eventually through Cowley County. The major influx of traffic created issues for all involved. Not only did it take Interstate travelers approximately 35 miles off of their intended course, but local residents dealt with the bumper to bumper activity for over two days.

Rain continued off and on for another two weeks which kept many roads underwater and the river levels high. May 21st and 22nd brought another 6-8” of rain across the county. More roads were closed causing travel across the county difficult.

On Sunday, May 26th, Emergency Management volunteers assisted the Arkansas City Police Department in going door to door passing out safety information regarding the potential for flooding. The information provided citizens with information on where to go and actions to take in case the need for an evacuation was necessary. Fortunately, no evacuations were required during this event.

Cowley County did declare a state of local disaster emergency on May 8th and then again on May 21st due to flooding conditions.

As the water receded and damages became visible, local jurisdictions began the daunting task of assessing that damage. Initial numbers from Cowley County totaled financial losses and impact at \$2,479,980.66. While these are the preliminary estimates, it may be months more before we know the final financial impact upon our county.

On June 10th, the Governor requested a Major Presidential Declaration for Public Assistance (PA) which was approved by the President on June 20th. This was an unusual disaster for Cowley County and Kansas as a whole. The total count of included Counties is 70 (out of 105), with an incident period of April 28th-July 12th, 2019 for a total of 76 days.

While 2019 did not bring historic flooding, river levels did break the top 10 marks at all gauges.

- ▶ The Walnut River in Winfield crested at 36.84’ on May 8th which is .97’ below the 1998 flood and 4.16’ below the highest mark of 41’ in 1928. This ranks as the 8th highest recorded level in Winfield history.
- ▶ The Walnut River in Arkansas City crested at 28.52’ on May 9th which is 3.93’ below the highest mark of 32.45’ in 1998. This ranks as the 3rd highest recorded level in Arkansas City for the Walnut River.
- ▶ The Arkansas River in Arkansas City crested at 20.91’ on May 9th which is 1.98’ below the highest mark of 22.89’ in 1998. This ranks as the 5th highest recorded level in Arkansas City for the Arkansas River.

Thanks to Andrew Lawson, PIO for the City of Arkansas City, for the collection of the above data

On average, Cowley County receives nearly 40" of annual rainfall. For 2019, rainfall amounts were as follows:

| Rain Amount | Location |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 69.33" | 4.1 miles NE of Winfield |
| 63.87" | 7.9 miles west of Winfield |
| 59.29" | Dexter |
| 57.27" | 10 miles NE of Winfield |
| 55.80" | 1 mile NW of Ark City |
| 53.33" | 4 miles SSW of Ark City |
| 53.00" | 2 miles SSE of Ark City |

Source: NWS volunteer observers



202nd Road west of the Strother Field Airport. Photo is taken from near 21st Road looking west showing the Rainbow Bend Bridge over the Arkansas River. Photo is courtesy of Greg Buckbee.



House surrounded by floodwaters from the Walnut River northeast of Arkansas City.



The Winfield Fairgrounds with flooding from the Walnut River.


Windsor Court Apartments Evacuation


On July 16th, a fire was reported at the Windsor Court Apartments in Arkansas City. This is a 7-level high rise apartment building primarily for elderly and disabled residents. Smoke spread throughout the complex enough that an evacuation was necessary to keep residents safe. Members of the Arkansas City Fire and Police Departments went room to room evacuating residents. The temperature at the time of this event was 95 degrees. It was decided to open a temporary shelter at the First United Methodist Church blocks away. USD 470 - Arkansas City schools provided buses for transportation. Emergency Management staff and volunteers assisted with accountability of residents and sheltering. Church staff was quick to open their doors, provide a place to get cool and fed all of the residents. In total, 35 residents were relocated for approximately three hours. The rest of the residents were able to leave on their own or were already out of the building at the time of the fire. It should be noted that this shelter was one of the new ones established in April of this year. As for lessons learned, we took away that the residents had two primary concerns during this evacuation. Those were the locations of their pets and the need for medications.

Social Media in Emergency Management

Cowley County Emergency Management began using social media tools, specifically Facebook and Twitter, in February 2012. Our goal is to reach out and interact with the public before, during and after emergencies or disasters. We share photos, tips, stories, and much, much more. We encourage our citizens to interact with us and provide us with information and feedback. Please be aware that social media outlets are not intended to replace 911 and if anyone has an emergency that requires immediate assistance, please call 911 and do not use social media. We hope to stay connected with our citizens and provide accurate information in a timely, reliable manner.

The Cowley County website is a valuable place to see updated information such as weather situation reports, bridge work, road closings, preparedness tips, departmental plans and volunteer group information. Go to <http://www.cowleycounty.org/em> to check out our latest information.

 Cowley County EM ended the year with 1,083 Twitter followers and had sent a total of 7,540 tweets to our followers. A tweet on May 21 about road closures garnered 9,939 impressions.

 Cowley County EM ended the year with 5,968 Facebook followers. The two cities with the most followers are Arkansas City (1,804) and Winfield (1,764). The most popular time our followers view our page is 6:00pm. Posts on two dates generated the most reaches: May 6 (Tornado Watch) reached 17,265 viewers and May 7 (conference call regarding severe weather) reached 15,128 viewers.

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