



Torrance County

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Chair: Stephen Garrett

Vice-Chair: David Dean

Secretary: Maria Martinez

Information Coordinator: Tracey Master

Emergency Manager: Samantha O'Dell

MINUTES

FOR

**Tuesday, September 23, 9:00am
205 S. Ninth Street, Estancia, NM 87016**

1. Chairman Stephen Garrett called the meeting to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Welcome and Introductions
4. It was determined that there was a quorum
5. Agenda Approved
6. Minutes approved for July and August
7. Presentation- Shawnelle Chavez, State Energy Coordinator
Talked about I-40 shutdowns in the winter, needing generators and people who are qualified to maintain and work on them, fires from grid failures, community communication, and 72-hour emergency kits. She is willing to come out to different communities to do a workshop and afterwards do an action report.
Rebecca Wilmore, Mountainair Ranger Station, asked about power shutoffs in case of high risk of wildfires.
David Dean asked about the maintenance of electric poles and if windmills have emergency plans.
8. Event Updates-Pumpkin Chunkin, October 11, 2025
Manzano Mountain Retreat, Canning Classes, September 28, 2025, 2:00 pm
Soap Making at Bethel
9. Agency Update-Mountainair Ranger Station, Cibola National Forrest
Current conditions for fuels and fires in Area 11 are Moderate 50% or below.
Red Canyon got 10" of rain this summer.
Outlooks-7-day outlook looks good
2-week temperature is normal
Precipitation is above normal
30-day outlook warmer and precipitation average

Drought conditions have gone from extreme to moderate.

Samantha said that she went to an emergency meeting, and they said that the outlook was for dryer and warmer than normal conditions.

Cindy Sims asked about predictions dealing with schools and school buses.

2025 Fall/Winter Prescribed Burns: Espinoza, Thunderbird, Gallinas, Red Canyon and Pueblo Colorado.

Preparing for prescribed burns: Communications with Landowners and Elected Officials.

Preparation of the Land: Modification, Survey, and Prep perimeter lines.

Drought monitoring: fire template and discuss drought conditions.

Burn Plan: Available Science and data, Local Knowledge, Drought monitoring, and Prediction of fire behavior.

Contingency Resources: "Just in case" personnel and equipment are on hand.

Pre-ignite checklist: weather conditions and fuel behavior

Leadership: All leadership knows the plans.

Patrol Plans: mop up.

Torreon is getting a new well.

Estancia's new Police Department and looking to hire two new officers.

Torrance Co. Soil & Water, November 15th, 11:00am Lunch at noon.

10. Public Forum: David Dean asked about an update on Melody Ranch and the water situation.

11. Adjournment