



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

Torrance County Local Emergency Planning Committee Minutes

DATE: November 25, 2025

TIME: 10:00am-11:30am

LOCATION: 205 S. 9th St., Estancia, NM 87016

IN ATTENDANCE

Samantha O'Dell, Barbara Worley, Stephen Garrett, David Dean, Patrick Sanchez, Amy May, Tom Cater, Phil Gaudette, Dr. Phillip Terry-Smith, Rebecca Elmore, Debby Maberry, Rebecca Eckard, Selena Carrol, Keith Sandy, Meagan Romero, Justin Yanez, Leaster Gary, Calvin Johnson, Andrew Yazzie, Tessa Snyder, Lincoln Rickey

CALL TO ORDER

- 9:00am by Stephen Garrett

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

- Samantha O'Dell & Stephen Garrett

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

- Not enough members are present to make a quorum.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- No quorum present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October (no quorum present)

PRESENTATION (Nuclear Weapons Storage)

- Phillip Gaudette (USAF CMSgt retired).
- KAFB underground munitions storage- largest nuclear weapons storage area in world (KUMMSC).
- Threats to Torrance County- nuclear destruction of site, chemical, biological or EMP- may be used by enemies to gain access.
- Stephen mentioned the need for preparedness not fear- stated that the county needed to prepare. Mentioned the need for iodine pills, radios and fallout shelters.

ENERGY TABLETOP EXERCISE FEEDBACK/UPDATE

- Exercise was set up between Emergency Managers and Electric Co-ops.
- Learned a lot about what each sector does.
- There has been great communication between EM and CNMEC since exercise.
- EM interacted with other co-ops in state and learned how they operate.
- Learned how to support each other- in discussion on what needs to be reported to LE, fire or EM.
- Plans for additional Tabletop exercises in 2026.
- Stephen spoke about recent geomagnetic storms. They could have caused major grid problems if they were sunward.
- Mentioned a good resource: sunweather.com (run by gov't)

EVENT UPDATES

- Samantha showed a couple videos regarding the pipeline explosion in Artesia that took place in October 2025.
- How would that look like in Torrance County in terms of a response from first responders, pipeline owners and citizens.

- Discussion about the vast number of pipelines running through county.
- Tessa sent in a video about a gas leak from a tanker truck in the parking lot at a hotel and how quickly it spread and resulted in numerous injuries, evacuations and shelter in place orders.
- Phillip G. had a question about ERG's. Samantha said she may bring some to next meeting.
- Question about status on radios- Samantha reported the dispatch piece would take 4-6 weeks after purchase order in complete. RFP's on other radios were sent out and a decision will be made by mid-January 2026.
- Discussion about HAM radios- meeting scheduled for mid- December to draft a policy. Radios in dispatch and mobile command need to be tested.

EMERGENCY ALERT UPDATES

- Code Red went down a few weeks ago due to a cyber security issue.
- Torrance County will be contracting with a new provider- TextMyGov. - should be up by next week.
- If alerts need to be sent out until then, the state has agreed to send those on our behalf.

EVENT UPDATES

- A CHEMPACK webinar will be available to anyone interested on December 17th. It will be presented by the Dept of Health.

AGENCY UPDATES

- Rebecca Elmor reported that on November 8th, the Mountainair Ranger District successfully conducted the largest landscape prescribed burn in years (1300 acres).
- She asked about how the notifications were sent out/received. Some received them, some did not. She provided her contact information: rebecca-jane.elmore@usda.gov (505) 234-9939.
- I-40 Corridor Workshop was discussed. The workshop focused on identifying resources, gaps and concerns. Conversations were created and hopes for future workshops.

PUBLIC FORUM

- N/A

UPCOMING GENERAL MEETINGS

- Next meeting will be on December 23rd. It will be a workshop to plan out the next year (2026).

ADJOURN MEETING

