



Torrance County

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Chair: Dr. Philip Terry-Smith

Vice-Chair: David Dean

Secretary: Maria Martinez

Information Coordinator: Amy May

Emergency Manager: Samantha O'Dell

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

FOR

**Tuesday, June 23, 2026 @ 9:00am
205 S. Ninth Street, Estancia, NM 87016**

1. The meeting was delayed due to the Power-Point not working.
The LEPC monthly meeting started at 9:10AM.
2. Dr. Philip Terry-Smith led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Dr. Philip Terry-Smith welcomed everyone and we each introduced ourselves.
4. A quorum was determined.
5. Amy May made a Motion for approval of June 23, 2026, LEPC Agenda with the Amendment of July 28, 2026, being our next regular LEPC meeting not July 25th. Tom Carter second and the agenda was approved.
6. Tracy Masters made a Motion for approval of May 26, 2026, Minutes. Amy May second and the Minutes were approved.
7. Wildfire Tabletop Exercise:
 - Dr. Philip Terry-Smith and Amy May led the exercise that included Amy May presenting a scenario and Dr. Philip Terry-Smith leading the discussion questions from the handout provided to everyone. There was discussion that revealed a lot of work that needs to take place in each municipality to better serve our communities in times of crisis. A chat group that includes Chief Gary Smith of the TCFD, Samantha O'Dell the Torrance County Emergency Manager and others who coordinate during county emergencies or crises have been established. It was also discussed that each municipality should have a Safety Coordinator or Safety Point person. Dr. Philip Terry-Smith will organize the feedback to present at a future meeting.

8. Presentation by Michelle Fraire and Craig Yazzie from the Veterans Transitional Center in Albuquerque:
 - The focus of this agency is assisting veterans who are homeless, soon to be homeless, who also may be experiencing mental health issues, who need food, shelter, income, and/or life skills building.
 - Mr. Yazzie is working on a brochure that law enforcement and first responders can easily use to refer a veteran to the agency if they come upon a veteran in need.
 - Mrs. Fraire has done her due diligence with learning Torrance County and says the Veterans Transitional Center is committed to seeking out and working to help the veterans of our county.
9. Presentation by Jaimi Mueller, Community Disaster Program Manager of the Red Cross of New Mexico:
 - Mrs. Mueller informed us that the Red Cross is here for Torrance County not only during a disaster or crisis but also through preventative preparedness. She is willing to come into our communities to talk to the citizens about how to be prepared for a disaster. She shared that the Red Cross would go into communities and give them smoke alarms for their homes.
Torrance County needs Red Cross Volunteers. They are willing to do shelter training with the volunteers. Cassandra is the Red Cross Volunteer Coordinator.
10. Hazmat horizon newsletter:
 - Dr. Philip Terry-Smith highlighted the hot topics for the month.
11. Recent Events:
 - The tragic and unfortunate events in Mountainair. Talked about the new fentanyl and that it is 100 times more deadly than the regular fentanyl on the streets and how they first responders are seeing more of it and how scary it is. They also talked about “wasping” and that it is a new process of ingesting the drug.
12. Agency Update:
 - Veterans Integration Center is a non-profit organization that wants to help all veterans. They want to be on a first call basis with first responders when they encounter a veteran in need. The initial help to a veteran is for up to 9 months, thereafter there is up to another 2 years of support and help.
 - National Night Out is August 11th from 5pm to 8pm at the Torrance County Fairgrounds.

- Wildland Fire Update is not good. It's very hot and dry.
- CNMEC has a new mobile station so if there are any power outages at the substation the mobile station can stand in.

13. Public Forum:

14. The next LEPC meeting will be on July 28, 2026, at 9:00am.

15. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.