

SEDGWICK COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC)

What the EOC does

- Situation Awareness: Provide the 'big picture' view of the incident
- Policy Direction: Communicate current policy or policy decisions to resolve conflicting policy
- Strategic Planning: Focus on long-term planning
- Communication Support: Provide communication and messaging support; manage public information issues and media requests
- Resources: Provide and prioritize specialty and emergency vendor resources
- Legal and Finance Support: Authorize emergency expenditures, when appropriate, and track incident costs or other administrative issues



When to Activate

The following are possible criteria for activation of the EOC:

- A threat (or potential threat) increases the risk to public safety in Sedgwick County
- Local disaster declaration: when conditions have caused or eminently threaten to cause wide-spread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property, resulting in the need to declare a local disaster emergency
- An incident is imminent (i.e. hazardous weather, elevated threat levels)
- The Incident Commander indicates the incident could expand rapidly, involve cascading effects, and/or require additional resources beyond mutual aid
- More than one jurisdiction is involved, a Unified Command or Area Command is established
- A similar incident led to EOC activation in the past
- In support of a city in Sedgwick County (at their request)
- In support of a large-scale, pre-planned event
- In support of an Amber Alert in Sedgwick County (requested by Exploited & Missing Children's Unit)
- At the discretion of the individuals authorized to activate the EOC

Authority to Activate

The Sedgwick County EOC may be activated or deactivated by any of the following individuals:

- Incident Command/Unified Command
- The Emergency Management Duty Officer
- The Director of Emergency Management
- The Director of Public Safety
- The Deputy County Manager
- The County Manager
- The Chairman of the BOCC

Activation Levels

Sedgwick County Emergency Management is always monitoring events and conditions that could potentially grow or cascade into situations that may require departmental response or activation of the EOC. The Emergency Management Duty Officer is on call 24 hours a day at **316-660-7236**, or by calling 9-1-1 and asking them to contact the Emergency Management Duty Officer.

Normal Operations (Level Three)

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Regular, day-to-day activities, as well as routine watch and warning activities conducted by EM staff when conditions indicate that an event or disaster may be imminent. A Level 3 Activation may take place in either a physical, or a virtual EOC.

Partial Activation (Level Two)

An incident or impending incident requiring the presence of emergency service personnel and others to be in close contact with each other to coordinate activities. Selected individuals/departments may be requested to respond at this level in lieu of a full activation.

Full Activation (Level One)

A full activation occurs when a major disaster requires coordination of the efforts of all emergency services and support agencies, including elected officials and top-level management. This level requires every organization with a desk in the EOC to send a representative with policy/decision-making authority.

EOC Structure

Sedgwick County Emergency Management uses the NIMS “Departmental EOC” structure, which incorporates the normal day-to-day departmental/agency alignment from Sedgwick County, the City of Wichita, and other key partners. The primary EOC’s physical location is on the first floor of the Public Safety Building, 714 N Main, Wichita, KS. Virtual technology (i.e. Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.) may be used at the discretion of those authorized to activate the EOC. If the primary EOC is not available for use, an alternate location will be announced by Sedgwick County Emergency Management.

Disaster Declaration

When an event overwhelms a local municipality or Sedgwick County beyond what local resources and mutual aid agreements can manage, a local disaster emergency is declared under provisions of K.S.A. 48-932 (a). **The authority for a local disaster declaration lies solely at the county level** with the Chairman of the BoCC, *no matter which jurisdiction or municipal within the county is impacted.* When an Incident Commander or Unified Command identifies local and mutual aid resources have been exhausted, they will contact the EM duty officer direct at 316-660-7236 or through 9-1-1 dispatch. The EM director or designee will contact the county manager and request a local declaration (verbally) from the BoCC Chairman to activate the Local Emergency Operations Plan. Upon verbal consent, EM will communicate the declaration to KDEM and forward the written declaration once the declaration is signed (usually at the next BoCC meeting). A request for a declaration from the Governor is done to release state assistance (technical support, personnel, and equipment). If pre-calculated damage thresholds to public property are met, a federal declaration may be requested by the Governor to qualify for Public Assistance. It is important to note that some programs include a cost-share. It is also important to understand that Public Assistance is not direct assistance to the public, rather assistance to restore public services (critical infrastructure).

EOC Open Practice

EM conducts EOC open practice days the 2nd Friday of each month at 10AM. This open practice is for all partner agencies to visit the EOC, log in to the workstation, and verify access to key programs as well as practice using the e-log. Alternate practice and training days are available upon request.