

KANSAS COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE

Managing the Risk



2013 Annual Report

Commission on Emergency Planning and Response

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Managing the Risk

2013 Commission on Emergency Planning and Response Annual Report



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Commission on Emergency Planning and Response



Governor Sam Brownback



Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli
The Adjutant General
of Kansas



Chief Jack Taylor
CEPR Chairman



Mr. Timothy East
CEPR Vice-Chairman

On October 17, 1986, in response to a growing concern for safety around chemical facilities, Congress enacted the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), also known as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). The federal law requires the governor of each state to establish a State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and for the Commission to establish Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). It is the mission of the LEPCs and SERC to implement EPCRA in the State of Kansas and to mitigate the effects of a release or a spill of hazardous materials.

The Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response (CEPR), established by K.S.A. Chapter 48, Article 9, The Kansas Emergency Management Act, is responsible for implementing federal EPCRA provisions in Kansas and serves as the technical advisor and information clearinghouse for state and federal hazardous materials programs. The primary focus of the CEPR is to enhance state and local emergency response and preparedness capabilities through improved coordination and planning. This is achieved by: (1) advising and assisting local agencies in the mitigation of hazards and emergency preparedness by aiding in the development of all emergency plans, training, and exercises; (2) reviewing the response to emergencies and recommending improvements for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery for future disasters; and (3) carrying out all requirements of the Federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986.

The CEPR is comprised of 27 representatives from various state and local government organizations and industry. Membership of the CEPR includes agency heads from the Adjutant General's Department, State Fire Marshal's Office, Department of Transportation, Department of Health and Environment, Highway Patrol, Department of Commerce, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Department of Agriculture, and the Animal Health Department. In addition to the agency heads, the Governor appoints eighteen members from various state and local agencies: counties, cities, agriculture, transportation, energy, law enforcement, fire fighters, county emergency managers, emergency medical services, business and industry, public works, hospitals, public health, tribes of Kansas, individuals with disabilities, and one representative for the seven regional homeland security councils.

The commission makes decisions regarding state preparations for different types of emergencies. By including more experts in the discussions, it will allow for a better planned response by the state. The various backgrounds of these individuals creates an ideal commission to coordinate an emergency response related to all-hazard situations.

Roles and Responsibilities of the CEPR

The Minimum Duties the CEPR Must Perform Under EPCRA

With respect to LEPCs:

1. Designate local emergency planning districts;
2. Appoint a LEPC for each planning district;
3. Supervise and coordinate the activities of each LEPC;
4. Annually review the local emergency plans; and
5. Coordinate proposals for training grant funds.



With respect to the regulated community:

1. Receive initial emergency planning notifications;
2. Receive emergency release notifications;
3. Receive the annual Tier II reports for hazardous chemical inventory of MSDS chemicals;
4. Receive the annual toxic chemical release inventory report, if designated;
5. Take enforcement action against facility owners/operators who fail to comply with notification and reporting requirements; and
6. Designate additional facilities subject to the emergency planning notification provisions of the law.

With respect to the public:

1. Establish procedures for receiving and processing public requests for information collected by the CEPR under EPCRA;
2. Appoint an information coordinator to supervise distribution of collected information to the public; and
3. Request information from EPA on the health effects of chemicals that EPA has agreed to designate "Trade Secret," and ensure that this information is available to the public.

With respect to the EPA:

1. Notify EPA of all facilities that have submitted an emergency planning notification (Section 302) or have been designated as subject to the emergency planning process by the CEPR or the governor.

Responsibilities Under Kansas Statutes (K.S.A. 65-5722)

1. Carry out all requirements of EPCRA;
2. Provide guidance on activities related to emergency preparedness, training, planning, and response;
3. Facilitate and advise KDEM, TAG, and others in preparation and implementation of emergency plans prepared by state agencies, statewide inter-jurisdictional emergency plans, and local emergency plans;
4. Review reports on disaster responses;
5. Provide guidance on coordinating, advising, or planning tasks related to EPCRA reporting, management of hazardous substances, and emergency planning and preparedness for all types of hazards and disasters;
6. Provide recommendations/advice to TAG and KDHE on the adoption of regulations authorized to carry out state hazard preparedness and planning laws and EPCRA; and
7. Provide guidance to KDEM and TAG in developing and implementing a plan for regional emergency medical response teams.

The Kansas Public Assistance (PA) Program

By: David Wilson, Kansas Division of Emergency Management

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance Grant Program provides assistance to state, tribal and local governments and certain types of private nonprofit agencies for emergencies declared by the President. The eligible funding is available on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged as a result of the disaster occurrence. Additionally, funding may also be available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

The Public Assistance Program provides supplemental federal disaster grant assistance for the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain private nonprofit organizations. The federal share of assistance is not less than 75 percent of the eligible cost for emergency measures and permanent restoration. The state determines how the nonfederal share, up to 25 percent, is split with the applicants.

The Kansas Public Assistance Program conducts its operations with one full-time state employee, while drawing from a diverse, seasoned and mentored cadre of 38 augmented personnel. These men and women are retired military with proud traditions of serving the state of Kansas, and continue their devoted service as Public Assistance Coordinators, PAC Crew Leaders, and PA Project Specialists. The current augmented positions were coordinated for project assignments throughout counties affected by the disasters. On average, 10 to 12 augmented personnel complete the detailed project assignments. With disasters involving multiple counties across the State, augmentee numbers reach upward to 25 to complete disaster requirements throughout the state.

The Kansas PA program sustains its ranking among the top in the nation in its ability to mobilize during disasters, utilize best practices from prior disasters, and serve those in need following disaster

declarations. The PA program recognizes and surveys new information received to enhance their response in future disasters and develops best practices to improve upon their expertise in future operations. The Kansas PA program consistently recognizes paths to better satisfaction ratings for customer service while administering PA disaster grants disaster response and recovery.

Virtually every jurisdiction in Kansas is threatened by some type of natural peril during the year. The recent analysis identifies that Kansas Public Assistance mobilized for two disaster exposures involving many of the county jurisdictions during 2013. As of January 2014, a total of \$448,343,977.68 has been obligated for Disasters 1741 through 4150. During project formulation and subsequent completion of the disaster applicants' recovery process some damages are estimated, or modified through alternate or improved project requests. Public Assistance funds for eligible state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations are for projects involving emergency and permanent work, including the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the effects of eligible disasters.

KDEM implemented individual training for existing and new PA Cadre by utilizing practical field experience to refresh and strengthen critical skills for deployment. Though PA Cadre mobilizes for various lengths of time during disaster operations, training exercises and "best practice" sessions are routine for implementing and developing courses of action in support of active and future disasters. A special training focus was scheduled during 2013 to become familiar with and implement Public Assistance Procedures Pilot Program Guide for permanent work as authorized by the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013.

A review of the most recent disasters involving the Public Assistance Section operations in 2013 is listed on the following pages.

OBLIGATED FUNDS AS OF JANUARY 9, 2014

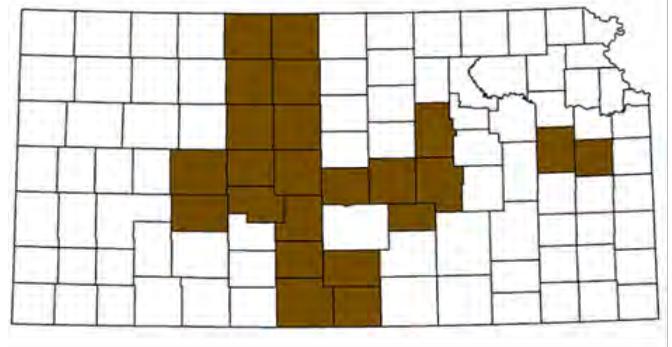
FEMA KS DR 4150

- ◆ **Declaration Date:** October 22, 2013
- ◆ **Incident Type:** Severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes and flooding
- ◆ **Incident Period:** July 22 to August 16, 2013
- ◆ **Designated Counties:** Barber, Barton, Bourbon, Butler, Chase, Cherokee, Clark, Clay, Cloud, Coffey, Comanche, Cowley, Crawford, Dickinson, Edwards, Elk, Ellsworth, Ford, Geary, Greenwood, Hamilton, Harper, Harvey, Hodgeman, Kingman, Kiowa, Lane, Linn, Lyon, Marion, McPherson, Meade, Montgomery, Morris, Ness, Ottawa, Pawnee, Pratt, Reno, Republic, Rice, Saline, Sumner, Washington, Wilson, and Woodson
- ◆ **Funds Obligated to Date:** \$14,094,445.33



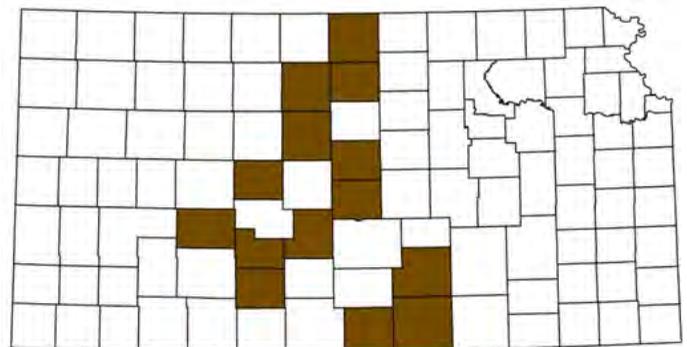
FEMA KS DR 4112

- ◆ **Declaration Date:** April 26, 2013
- ◆ **Incident Type:** Snowstorm
- ◆ **Incident Period:** February 20 to February 23, 2013
- ◆ **Designated Counties:** Barber, Barton, Dickinson, Ellis, Franklin, Harper, Harvey, Hodgeman, Kingman, Marion, McPherson, Ness, Osage, Osborne, Pawnee, Phillips, Pratt, Rice, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Smith, and Stafford
- ◆ **Funds Obligated to Date:** \$1,712,920.33



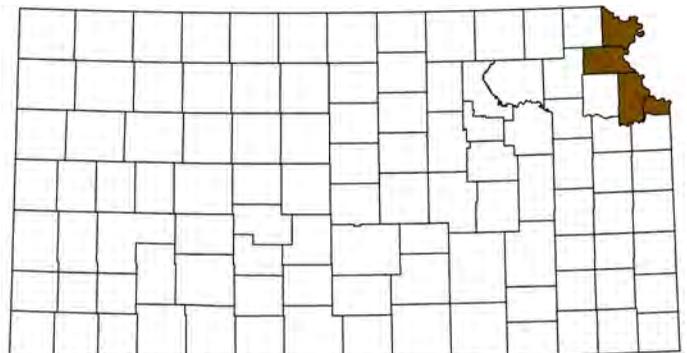
FEMA KS DR 4063

- ◆ **Declaration Date:** May 24, 2012
- ◆ **Incident Type:** Severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, and flooding
- ◆ **Incident Period:** April 14 to April 15, 2012
- ◆ **Designated Counties:** Edwards, Ellsworth, Harper, Hodgeman, Jewell, Kiowa, Mitchell, Osborne, Rice, Rush, Russell, Sedgwick, Stafford, and Sumner
- ◆ **Funds Obligated to Date:** \$6,479,580.85



FEMA KS DR 4035

- ◆ **Declaration Date:** September 23, 2011
- ◆ **Incident Type:** Flooding
- ◆ **Incident Period:** June 1 to August 1, 2011
- ◆ **Designated Counties:** Atchison, Doniphan, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte
- ◆ **Funds Obligated to Date:** \$3,919,083.70



FEMA KS DR 4010

- ◆ **Declaration Date:** July 29, 2011
- ◆ **Incident Type:** Severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, and flooding
- ◆ **Incident Period:** May 19 to June 4, 2011
- ◆ **Designated Counties:** Barton, Clay, Cloud, Hamilton, Jewell, Lincoln, Logan, Lyon, Marion, Mitchell, Morton, Osage, Osborne, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, Republic, Riley, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Sherman, Smith, Stafford, Stanton, and Washington
- ◆ **Funds Obligated to Date:** \$8,819,858.90



FEMA KS DR 1932

- ◆ **Declaration Date:** August 10, 2010
- ◆ **Incident Type:** Severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes
- ◆ **Incident Period:** June 7 to July 21, 2010
- ◆ **Designated Counties:** Atchison, Brown, Butler, Chase, Cheyenne, Clay, Cloud, Comanche, Decatur, Doniphan, Ellis, Elk, Franklin, Greenwood, Harvey, Jackson, Jewell, Kiowa, Lyon, Marion, Marshall, McPherson, Miami, Mitchell, Morris, Norton, Osage, Osborne, Pawnee, Phillips, Pottawatomie, Republic, Riley, Rooks, Rush, Sheridan, Smith, Wabaunsee, Washington, Wilson, and Woodson
- ◆ **Funds Obligated to Date:** \$9,863,324.75



FEMA KS DR 1885

- ◆ **Declaration Date:** March 9, 2010
- ◆ **Incident Type:** Severe winter storms and snowstorm
- ◆ **Incident Period:** December 22, 2009 to January 8, 2010
- ◆ **Designated Counties:** Allen, Anderson, Atchison, Bourbon, Brown, Butler, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Clay, Coffey, Cowley, Crawford, Decatur, Doniphan, Douglas, Elk, Franklin, Geary, Gove, Graham, Greenwood, Jackson, Jefferson, Jewell, Labette, Leavenworth, Linn, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, McPherson, Miami, Montgomery, Morris, Nemaha, Neosho, Norton, Osage, Phillips, Pottawatomie, Rawlins, Republic, Riley, Rooks, Shawnee, Sheridan, Wabaunsee, Wallace, Washington, Wilson, Woodson, and Wyandotte
- ◆ **Funds Obligated to Date:** \$20,050,988.79



FEMA KS DR 1868

- ◆ **Declaration Date:** December 23, 2009
- ◆ **Incident Type:** Severe winter storm
- ◆ **Incident Period:** November 14 to November 16, 2009
- ◆ **Designated Counties:** Marshall, Republic, and Washington
- ◆ **Funds Obligated to Date:** \$38,140,202.37



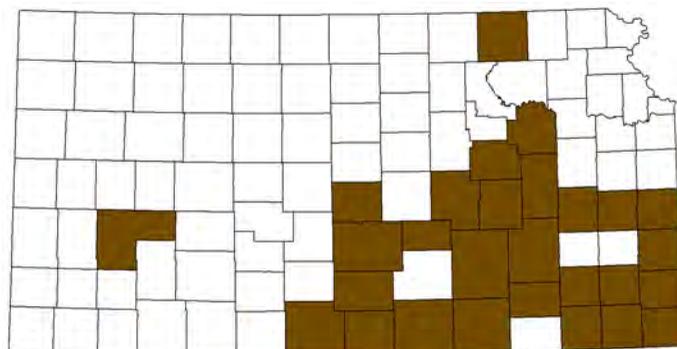
FEMA KS DR 1860

- ◆ **Declaration Date:** September 30, 2009
- ◆ **Incident Type:** Severe storms and flooding
- ◆ **Incident Period:** July 8 to July 14, 2009
- ◆ **Designated Counties:** Anderson, Bourbon, Franklin, Linn, and Sedgwick
- ◆ **Funds Obligated to Date:** \$4,186,098.84



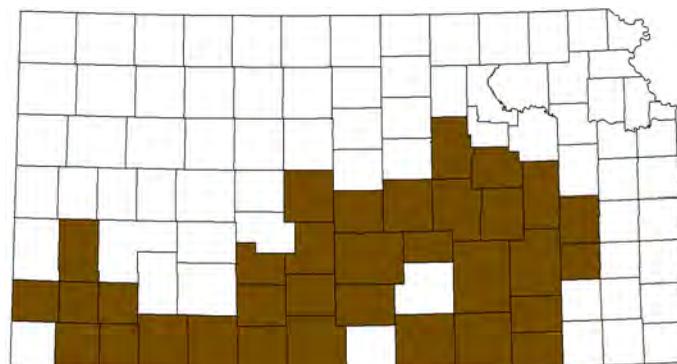
FEMA KS DR 1849

- ◆ **Declaration Date:** June 25, 2009
- ◆ **Incident Type:** Severe storms, flooding, straight-line winds, and tornadoes
- ◆ **Incident Period:** April 25 to May 16, 2009
- ◆ **Designated Counties:** Anderson, Barber, Bourbon, Butler, Chase, Cherokee, Coffey, Cowley, Crawford, Elk, Finney, Greenwood, Harper, Harvey, Kingman, Labette, Linn, Lyon, Marion, Marshall, Montgomery, Morris, Neosho, Reno, Rice, Sumner, Wabaunsee, and Wilson
- ◆ **Funds Obligated to Date:** \$15,730,459.90



FEMA KS DR 1848

- ◆ **Declaration Date:** June 24, 2009
- ◆ **Incident Type:** Severe winter storm and record and near record snow
- ◆ **Incident Period:** March 26 to March 29, 2009
- ◆ **Designated Counties:** Butler, Chase, Chautauqua, Coffey, Cowley, Dickinson, Elk, Grant, Greenwood, Harvey, Lyon, Marion, Morris, Sumner, and Woodson; Emergency Assistance for Barber, Barton, Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Grant, Haskell, Kearny, Kingman, Kiowa, McPherson, Meade, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Seward, Stafford, Stanton, and Stevens
- ◆ **Funds Obligated to Date:** \$18,162,695.38



FEMA KS DR 1741

- ◆ **Declaration Date:** February 1, 2008
- ◆ **Incident Type:** Severe winter storms
- ◆ **Incident Period:** December 6 to December 19, 2007
- ◆ **Designated Counties:** Atchison, Barber, Barton, Brown, Butler, Chase, Cherokee, Clark, Clay, Cloud, Comanche, Crawford, Dickinson, Doniphan, Edwards, Ellis, Ellsworth, Ford, Geary, Graham, Gove, Harvey, Hodgeman, Jackson, Jefferson, Jewell, Kickapoo Nation, Kingman, Kiowa, Labette, Leavenworth, Lincoln, Logan, Lyon, Marion, Marshall, McPherson, Miami, Mitchell, Morris, Nemaha, Osage, Osborne, Ottawa, Pawnee, Phillips, Pottawatomie, Pratt, Reno, Republic, Rice, Riley, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Saline, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Sheridan, Smith, Stafford, Thomas, Wabaunsee, Wallace, Washington, and Woodson
- ◆ **Funds Obligated to Date:** \$307,184,318.54



Kansas assists Oklahoma and Colorado through EMAC

By: Jonathan York, Kansas Division of Emergency Management

When disaster strikes, Kansas responders answer the call for assistance both in state and across the United States. The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a national disaster relief compact that includes all 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and U.S. Virgin Islands expedites emergency assistance between states and territories allowing for Kansas to provide assistance to impacted states and receive assistance from non-impacted states through response and recovery to a natural or man-made disaster. Kansas Division of Emergency Management coordinated two EMAC deployments during 2013.

The first deployment was June 9th through June 25th and provided assistance to the State of Oklahoma. Cassie Sparks with the Kansas Department of Labor and Tom Erickson with the Johnson County Sheriff's Office were deployed to Oklahoma City and assisted state and local governments with public information after two tornadoes impacted Moore and El Reno in May. Cassie and Tom assisted state and local governments impacted with public information. Duties included attending public outreach meetings, responding to media inquiries, conducting media interviews, developing press releases, maintaining public outreach on social media, and addressing rumor control.

The second deployment was October 16th through October 30th and provided assistance to the State of Colorado. Seventy-Seven Kansas Soldiers and Airmen assisted in repairing roads washed away during a flash flooding. U.S. Highway 36 between Lyons and Estes Park became inaccessible after a flood on September 12th that cut off residents in the smaller, rural communities who live along the 25-mile stretch of highway.

The Kansas units included the 891st Engineer Battalion (Iola), 226th Engineer Company (Augusta), 242nd Engineer Company (Coffeyville),

772nd Mobility Augmentation Company (Pittsburg), 190th Civil Engineering Squadron (Topeka), and 184th Intelligence Wing Civil Engineering Squadron (Wichita). The units comprise of civil engineers and heavy equipment operators. Overall, more than 375 Army and Air National Guardsman from Colorado, Utah, Montana and Kansas worked to rebuild the highway. Work included building road surfaces, removing debris, which included cars, trees and massive boulders, removing asphalt, filling land areas washed away by the water, and installing culverts.



Seventy-seven Kansas National Guard soldiers and airmen assisted the State of Colorado with repairing roads washed away during a flash flood on September 12. The request was made through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. (Photos courtesy of the Adjutant General's Department, Public Affairs Office)

State Hazard Mitigation Plan

By: Jeanne Bunting, Kansas Division of Emergency Management

The State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) was approved by FEMA in November 2013 and is active until November 2016. What makes this plan unique is that the contractors were tasked with writing the plan in a ‘regional’ format in order to facilitate the writing of the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plans (RHMP). These plans are intended to take the financial burden off of the 105 counties within Kansas by consolidating groups of counties together that have like vulnerabilities and weather patterns, reduce redundancies, and eliminate the need for them to hire contractors to write their plans.

The regional planning process began with the mapping of the sub-regions. These sub-regions are a product of the Homeland Security Regions that are basically divided by two. This was done in order to keep each sub-region at 12 counties or less so as to not burden the process. By writing the SHMP in a regional format, the regional plan authors spend less time on creating tables from data sets, and reduce the length of time to write the plans by up to a year. The following map shows the breakdown of the sub-regions for the Regional Mitigation Plan Initiative.

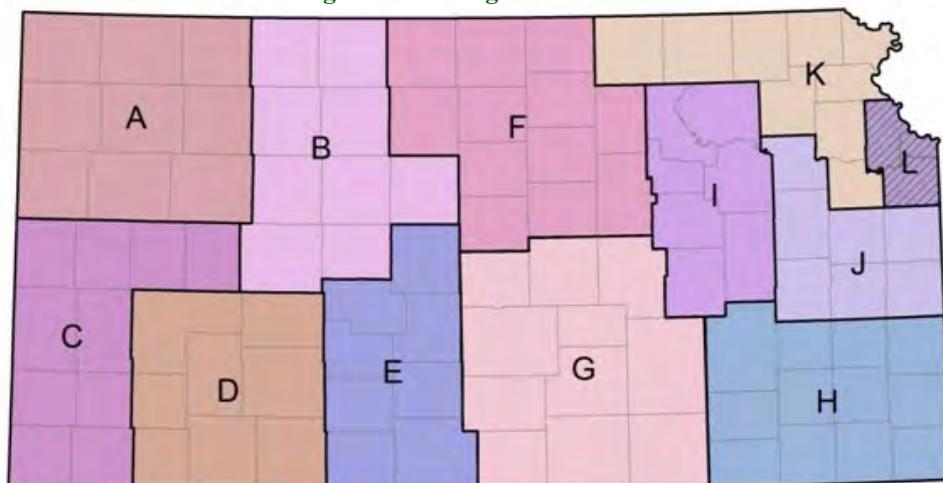
The first regional plans to be completed were Region L (Leavenworth, Johnson, and Wyandotte counties) and Region H (southeastern Kansas). These plans are currently under review at FEMA. Region G (south central Kansas) has been completed, and Regions J and K (Northeastern and

eastern Kansas) are currently being written. The latter two regions will be submitted to FEMA by May of 2014 for review. Regions E and F will have their plan kickoff meetings in the spring of 2014 with an estimated submission date in the winter of 2014. All other regions will be completed no later than the winter of 2016.

In conjunction with the writing of the Regional Plans, the State of Kansas will also provide the yearly review of the Regional Plans which includes noting changes since the plan approval and updating the listed actions for each jurisdiction in the plan. The Regional Plans are good for five years and by being vigilant in listing changes each year the update process is expected to be seamless.

The Regional Plan Initiative will enable the State of Kansas to save upwards of \$4M dollars. The cost to the state is approximately \$500K, and the cost to the counties is zero. In order to receive federal grant dollars for mitigation, the state and jurisdictions are required to have an approved mitigation plan in place. In the past nine years the State of Kansas has received approximately \$64.4 million dollars in hazard mitigation grant money to fund projects that mitigate for natural disasters. When the cost share to affected jurisdictions of 25% is added in, the total exceeds \$85.9 million in funded mitigation projects. Without mitigation plans Kansas would have received zero dollars.

Mitigation Sub-Regions



The map to the left depicts the mitigation sub-regions. The state was broken into sub-regions to ease the financial burden off the 105 counties by consolidating groups of counties (no more than 12) together to develop mitigation plans. The Regional Plan Initiative will enable the State of Kansas to save upwards of \$4M dollars.

Biggert-Waters Has Arrived

By: Jacob Gray, Kansas Division of Emergency Management

In July 2012, the U.S. Congress passed the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12) which calls on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other agencies, to make a number of changes to the way the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is run. Some of these changes went into effect immediately, while others went into effect on October 1, 2013. Key provisions of the legislation will require the NFIP to raise the rates to reflect true flood risk, make the program more financially stable, and change how Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) updates impact policyholders. The unintended consequence of Biggert-Waters has been that flood insurance for certain types of properties may no longer be affordable because premium rates will increase for some policyholders over time. Currently, there is proposed legislation that would delay some of the changes that raise flood insurance premiums.

The mitigation specialists at Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) work very closely with Kansas Division of Water Resources (DWR) to lessen the effects of future floods. This is done through a collaborate effort utilizing the Kansas Hazard Mitigation Team (KHMT) and the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants which KDEM is responsible for administering. HMA grants can be used to buyout or elevate a home to eliminate or drastically reduce insurance premiums to the homeowner.

The Floodplain Management Team at Division of Water Resources noticed an increase in the number of calls related to Biggert-Waters in October. In discussions with floodplain managers we are told that they are also getting numerous calls related to Biggert-Waters. Here are a few examples of what we are hearing about:

- ◆ A new building was purchased in 2012. Flood insurance was \$800. A year later, when the policy was renewed, the insurance went to \$5000.
- ◆ The owner of a commercial property saw a \$4000 increase in the cost of her premium.
- ◆ Insurance agents are calling and asking for



copies of elevation certificates on older Pre-FIRM houses that had never had one.

- ◆ Property owners are calling and asking for assistance with elevations and surveys.
- ◆ A newly married young couple signed the closing paperwork on a new home on October 1, 2013. After moving their furniture into the home they learned the cost of flood insurance will be over \$3700 per year.

For certain types of buildings, flood insurance premiums are moving from hundreds of dollars to costing thousands of dollars. Floodplain managers will want to help their citizens save money on the cost of flood insurance. What can a community official do to help citizens save money?

Flood insurance is required by lenders when there is a federally backed mortgage on a property in a special flood hazard area. Banks hire flood zone determination companies to make a judgment about whether or not the property is in a special flood hazard area. There have been cases when a flood zone determination was incorrect. For example, a special flood hazard area was identified on part of the property but the structure was not in it. In that situation, provide the homeowner with a map and tell them to notify their lender that there is a dispute. The property should be rechecked by the flood zone determination company. When lenders won't cooperate, another option is to file a request for a Letter of Map Amendment with an Out As Shown determination.

Floodplain managers can give property owners advice on how to elevate or retrofit a building so that it can have a more favorable insurance rating. One

situation that comes up is with Pre-FIRM buildings on a crawl space. Those crawl spaces do not usually have flood openings. Retrofitting to install flood openings can lower the cost of insurance.



Home Before Elevation



Home After Elevation

(Garage door and foundation now have vents allowing water to flow freely under the home)

BW-12 eliminates subsidies for flood insurance and moves toward actuarial rating. Pre-FIRM houses need to have an elevation certificate in order to be actuarial rated. Property owners are often told to hire a surveyor to complete an elevation certificate. In the case of a house with a basement in an unnumbered Zone A area, a property owner can complete an elevation certificate and take their own measurements in Section E of the form. This will usually result in a slightly lower cost for the insurance than calculating a base flood elevation because of the depth of the basement below ground. It will also save on the cost of hiring a surveyor. Community officials may need to help citizens, unfamiliar with flood maps, to complete the form.

On the other hand, when a house is elevated on a crawl space, fill dirt or a natural rise of land then hiring a surveyor may be the better choice. A house that is elevated on a crawl space may turn out to have the lowest floor at or above the base flood elevation. This will result in a much better insurance rating.

Floodplain managers should review elevation certificates for property owners. Make sure that the building diagram is correct and the datum used is the same in Sections B and C. Mistakes on the elevation certificate can become very costly. Compare the base flood elevation in Section B to the lowest adjacent grade in Section C. In cases where the grade is higher than the predicted water surface elevation, the property will often qualify for a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA). The already completed elevation certificate can be used as a supporting document attached to a form requesting a LOMA. An approved LOMA can eliminate the requirement for flood insurance and make the property eligible for the low cost preferred risk policy of flood insurance.

Insurance agents who better understand BW-12 and NFIP requirements can better advise their clients. Contact insurance agents in your community. Suggest they take webinar training classes. The City of Independence invited realtors, lenders and insurance agents to a webinar training held at the community center. The Division of Water Resources attended and helped answer questions that came up. A schedule of upcoming agent trainings can be found at:

<http://www.h2opartnersusa.com/nfip-training/agent-training/>

A home owner recently refinanced his home. He had an existing mortgage and flood insurance done through the lender. He was taking out a second mortgage for an equity credit line with a different lender. The second lender was going to require flood insurance too. The property owner planned to cancel his existing policy and take out a new policy through the new lender. Taking out a new policy would have triggered the requirement for actuarial rates under Biggert-Waters. Homeowners should not cancel an existing policy.

Enroll your community in the Community Rating System (CRS). There are 26 cities and counties that are already approved for CRS in Kansas. These communities have a strong floodplain management program and also get discounts on flood insurance. As flood insurance premiums increase the dollar amounts for the CRS savings will also increase.

Emergency Operations Plan Development: A Manageable Struggle

By: Andrew Foster, Kansas Division of Emergency Management

Emergency management professionals across the State of Kansas have struggled for decades to maintain their planning capability in their jurisdictions. The process of Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) development requires a significant investment in time and energy on the part of the county stakeholder. As a result of the requirements and the duties that many emergency managers are tasked with outside of planning, there has historically been significant issues with developing and maintaining EOPs. However, in the past few years there has been forward progress towards developing EOPs that are high quality and useful documents. There is still a long way to go before we get an acceptable level of compliance with the state statute but through a series of trainings, webinars, workshops, and individual conversations, we are confident that all jurisdictions will be able to complete an updated EOP in a timely manner.

Webinars

One of the areas that we have struggled with as an organization is to use modern technology to enhance our ability to provide training and expertise to individuals and organizations at the local level. Web based training is not a new concept, but we have worked hard to build web training into our routine as a method of providing high quality, low cost training to individuals in all jurisdictions. Besides the obvious time and monetary savings that everyone gets from web trainings, there are other benefits that are less obvious. One of the greatest advantages is that individuals can participate in a short duration webinar that fits their information needs requirements for their specific job. This means that someone can attend just their section of the training, instead of waiting through an entire day worth of training to hear the 30 minute part that pertains to their area of expertise. The web training is also scalable because we can train as few as three people or as many as 100. We intend to continue our web training in the foreseeable future and look forward to embracing new technological advances that will make education easier on everyone.

Workshops

Another improvement in customer service experienced this year was the delivery of EOP Development workshops. While we had previously conducted trainings that discussed planning standards and how to navigate completing EOPs using the online Kansasplanner.com system, we recognized that there was still a lack of knowledge on the content that was required. To address this issue we held seven workshops at the end of 2013. In the workshops we discussed, as a group of emergency management professionals, almost every item that needed to be addressed to complete an EOP. This was a long and somewhat tedious workshop that lasted three full days, but the end result was a significant number of completed EOPs following the workshops. We expect to continue these workshops annually by visiting each Homeland Security region and providing guided assistance through the complex task of EOP development.

Conversations

Trainings, webinars, and workshops provide a good baseline of knowledge about planning and development of EOPs, but the best resource continues to be private conversations and questions answered. KDEM planning staff has worked to establish a reputation for providing excellent customer service to all jurisdictions that have questions or issues regarding their planning needs. We have spent countless hours answering emails, taking phone calls, or sitting down one-on-one to talk about how to improve a jurisdiction's planning capabilities. KDEM will continue to provide training about the planning process and answer specific questions that individuals ask about how to improve their jurisdiction's EOP.

We are excited that there has been such commitment by individuals taking ownership of their planning process across the state. As we continue to see growth in planning, we also continue to see jurisdictions creating plans that better protect their citizens in time of need. After all, the reason emergency management exists is to help others when they are most vulnerable, and planning is the first step to protecting the whole community.

Comprehensive Resource Management and Credentialing System

By: Bryan Murdie and Jesse Smith, Kansas Division of Emergency Management

The Comprehensive Resource Management and Credentialing System (CRMCS) is a free, web based, state maintained resource management tool for emergency managers and response agencies. This tool provides the ability to credential personnel, provide information on the availability of resources, and track assets with near real time visibility via the internet from anywhere in the state. The CRMCS is composed of several standalone web based systems that collectively help perform these abilities. These systems include the Kansas System for the Early Registration of Volunteers (K-SERV), ResourceMGR Web, InterTRAX Exchange, and Kansas-MAP.

The CRMCS was essentially developed to efficiently and effectively strengthen disaster response capabilities through all levels of resource management within the state. These separate systems each play a distinct role in doing so by utilizing standardized resource management concepts such as typing, inventorying, credentialing, organizing, and tracking.

ResourceMGR Web is the system which houses all the resource information, to include both response personnel and equipment. These resources can be typed by local, state defined Tier II, or NIMS Tier I standards thus allowing resources to be accurately identified and their abilities defined. K-SERV is a volunteer management system that allows the CRMCS to verify licensed, certified, or registered health and medical professionals in the system. InterTRAX Exchange is a tracking system that allows those with appropriate permissions the ability to track, in near real time, all assets on-scene of an incident. Finally, Kansas-MAP provides visibility of resources available to use across the state by organizing and presenting the ResourceMGR Web database as actionable information.

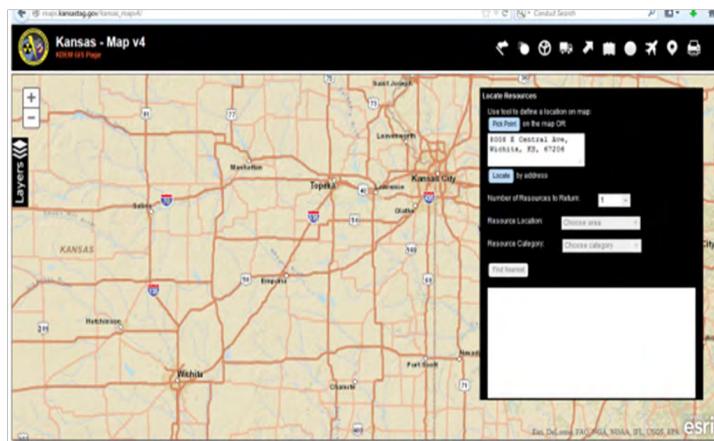
These systems allow for the resource management process to be separated into two parts: resource management as an element of preparedness and resource management during an incident. The CRMCS is most known for its preparedness element due to the Identification Credentialing Card (IDCC), also known as a badge. ResourceMGR Web is the system responsible for this recognition and is often

misunderstood as the CRMCS. Emergency response agencies use this system to inventory equipment and credential personnel with badges. These activities are performed on a continual basis ensuring that resources are ready to mobilize when the need occurs.

As mentioned, the CRMCS also provides resource management abilities during an incident. The credentialing badges are used for both manual and electronic accountability of response personnel and equipment on-scene. A commonly unknown capability of the CRMCS is the ability to find needed resources throughout the state. These “deployable resources” are identified when inputted in ResourceMGR Web with additional information such as location and a point-of-contact. Kansas-MAP then geographically maps these resources allowing authorized users the ability to identify the closest needed resources to an incident at any time, from any given location.

The capabilities of Kansas-MAP, while less familiar within the CRMCS, are acknowledged in *Enabling Comprehensive Situational Awareness* as “an efficient system for managing and tracking public safety resources across the state”. However, the effectiveness of this capability is yet to be fully realized. It will be most powerful when all agencies in Kansas enter their deployable resources into ResourceMGR Web.

By utilizing all the systems that the CRMCS has to offer, Kansas Responders have a tool to provide the most effective and efficient service to the most important customer, the Kansas Resident.



Building a Framework for Tribal Preparedness

By: Chris Howell, Kansas Native American Affairs Office

On December 30, 2013 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released an Intergovernmental Affairs Advisory to Tribal Leaders and Tribal Emergency Managers highlighting the efforts of the agency to advance Tribal Affairs in 2013 and into early 2014. The advisory begins with President Obama signing the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 in January. This act provided for a legislative change to amend the Stafford Act to provide federally recognized tribal governments the option to choose whether to make a request directly to the President for an emergency or major disaster declaration, or to receive assistance through a declaration for a State.

In October 2013, FEMA announced a proposed Tribal Consultation Policy that is being developed in accordance with President Obama's November 9, 2009, Memorandum on Tribal Consultation. The goal of the FEMA Tribal Consultation Policy will be to create an agency-wide framework that directs FEMA employees on how to engage in regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of FEMA actions that have tribal implications.

FEMA will continue their efforts to engage and consult with tribes in early 2014 by increasing the number of tribal representatives on the National Advisory Council from two to three representatives. The council advises the FEMA Administrator on *all* aspects of emergency management and the development of FEMA policy.

Additionally, FEMA is establishing a permanent National Tribal Affairs Advisor position to support the work of nine Regional Tribal Liaisons, and will also serve as an advisor to FEMA leadership and to a new Tribal Integration Group (TIG). The TIG will serve as a coordinating body for tribal-related engagement and issues across FEMA programs.

These are just a few examples of the great strides FEMA has taken to advance tribal affairs in 2013 and into 2014. However, it is clear that FEMA

is creating a strong agency-wide tribal engagement framework through meaningful outreach and consultation efforts by adding to a *foundation of Tribal Preparedness* that began with their Tribal Policy statements of September 25, 1998.

"In the spirit of community, FEMA commits itself to building a strong and lasting partnership with American Indians and Alaska Natives to assist them in preparing for the hazards they face, reducing their disaster vulnerabilities, responding quickly and effectively when disasters strike, and recovering in their aftermath"

This policy became the foundation and starting point for the development an emergency management curriculum focused on tribal governments. The first tribal emergency management course was held in January 2002 at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, MD. The EMI Tribal Curriculum has since grown to five courses that are designed from a Tribal Government perspective. These courses meet the unique emergency management needs of Tribal nations with regard to tribal governance, sovereignty, culture and tradition, and are created with the following goal in mind.

"To collaborate with tribal governments to build emergency management capability and partnerships to ensure continued survival of Tribal nations and communities."

The Tribal Curriculum includes the following classes: Emergency Management Frameworks, Emergency Operations, Mitigation, Continuity of Operations and an emergency management overview class for Tribal Leaders. Additional information about the tribal curriculum and course descriptions can be found at <http://www.training.fema.gov/Tribal/>.

FEMAs efforts to provide tribal communities with a solid foundation in emergency management training, and their ongoing efforts to strengthen tribal engagement and outreach have built a solid framework for tribal preparedness.

LEPC Highlight: Thomas County

By: Harry Heintzelman, Kansas Division of Emergency Management

The 26 member Thomas County LEPC has been quite busy over the last year. With a new Chairperson and Emergency Manager leading the charge, the LEPC officially met 4 times in 2013 and was quite active in developing relationships, public outreach, and training and exercise areas. On top of that, the LEPC assisted with development of the Debris Management Plan along with all of their other routine tasks.

After the explosion in West, Texas, a fertilizer facility within Thomas County did not want the community to be afraid of them and approached the LEPC to take a pro-active stance. As a result, the LEPC and local Fire department will tour the facility and review the facility's emergency plans every year. The LEPC is excited to begin working on this relationship and hopes to apply the lessons learned to other facilities.

In 2013, the Thomas County LEPC launched a new initiative to have individuals and businesses register the location and occupancy ratings of storm shelters they own. The LEPC used almost every form of media for public outreach on this initiative. The registry has been featured in two newspaper articles and is posted on the Thomas County Emergency Management/LEPC website. The registry also was one of the focuses at the Emergency Management/LEPC/Health Department/EMS shared booth at the Thomas County Fair. "So far we have a few people registered, but it is a work in progress. Our biggest challenge has been convincing people that it CAN happen to us!" says Autumn Arasmith, Thomas County Emergency Management Coordinator.

In 2013 LEPC members took part in several training sessions and drills, but Scenario Day was the biggest event. It was designed to give Colby Community College students a taste of what a real world emergency response is like by pairing them with first responders. The scenario for the exercise was an explosion at a meth lab with mass casualties.



*Responders dressing out in HAZMAT gear for Scenario Day.
(Photo courtesy of Autumn Arasmith, Thomas County)*

Students had a chance to observe a HAZMAT response demonstration by the Colby Fire Department. Then the EMS students treated "patients" and transported them to an ER established by nursing students. The exercise concluded with Criminal Justice students heading up an investigation. Other training events included ethanol response, pipeline emergencies, EOD training, two active shooter training sessions, and a regional table top drill with neighboring counties' hospitals.

The common thread throughout all of these accomplishments has been good communications. Without good communication, relationships break down and getting anything done becomes a huge task. According to Autumn Arasmith, "One of the biggest strengths our LEPC has is the ability to really communicate with each other. We are not just working together, but have become allies for each other."

*LEPC team discussing evacuation zones with a guest student with responders.
(Photo courtesy of Autumn Arasmith, Thomas County)*



LEPC Composition and Membership

By federal law, each LEPC must include, at a minimum, representatives from each of the following groups or organizations:

- State/Local Official
- Firefighting
- Health
- Hospital
- Transportation
- Community Group
- Law Enforcement
- Emergency Management
- Print and Broadcast Media
- Emergency Medical Services
- Local Environmental Group
- Facility Owners/Operators

Each LEPC appoints a Chairperson and an Information Coordinator and adopts bylaws by which the LEPC will function. These rules must include provisions for public notification of committee activities, public meetings to discuss the emergency plan, receiving public comments and providing a response to such comments, and the distribution of the emergency plan.

ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Submit a membership list to the Commission on Emergency Planning and Response (CEPR).
2. Submit a LEPC Compliance Certification Form to the CEPR by December 31 of each year.
3. Review and update (if necessary) the Local Emergency Operations Plan.
4. Forward LEPC meeting agendas and minutes to the CEPR. This item does not need to be completed if these documents are posted on your LEPC website and the CEPR has been notified of their location.
5. Publish a public notice, through print or electronic means, on the availability of viewing the local emergency operations plan and Tier II inventory forms that have been submitted.
6. If Bylaws were updated during the year a copy should be sent to the CEPR.

Primary LEPC Responsibilities

(EPCRA, Public Law 99-499)

1. Shall review local emergency management plans once a year, or as circumstances change (*Section 303 (a)*).
2. Shall make available each Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), Kansas Tier II report, inventory form, toxic chemical release form, and follow-up emergency notice to the general public (*Section 324 (a)*).
3. Shall establish procedures for receiving and processing requests from the public for information, including Tier II information (*Section 301(c)*).
4. Shall receive from each subject facility the name of a facility representative who will participate in the emergency planning process as a facility emergency coordinator (*Section 303(d)*).
5. Shall be informed by the community emergency coordinator of hazardous chemical releases reported by owners/operators of covered facilities (*Section 304(b)(1)(a)*).
6. Shall be given follow-up emergency notice information as soon as practical after a release which requires the owner/operator to submit a notice (*Section 304(c)*).
7. Shall receive from the owner/operator of any facility an MSDS for each such chemical (upon request of the LEPC or fire department), or a list of such chemicals (*Section 311(a)*).
8. Shall, upon request by any person, make available an MSDS to the person (*Section 311(a)*).
9. Shall receive from the owner/operator of each facility an emergency and hazardous chemical inventory form (*Section 312(a)*).
10. Shall respond to a request for Tier II information under this paragraph no later than 45 days after the date of receipt of the request (*Section 312(e)*).
11. May commence a civil action against an owner/operator of a facility for failure to provide information under section 303(d) or for failure to submit Tier II information under section 312(e) (1) (*Section 326(a)(2)(B)*).

2013 Hazardous Materials Spills Report

By: Jamie Schwartz, Kansas Division of Emergency Management

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM), the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), and the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) report there were approximately **1,835** hazardous material releases in Kansas for 2013.

Provisions of Section 304 of the federal law, “Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986” (SARA), require immediate local notification when an accidental or unplanned release of a hazardous substance occurs. When a spill or release has occurred, the spiller must notify local and state authorities and the National Response Center (as required) within 15 minutes.

In Kansas, the county emergency coordinator or 9-1-1 Dispatch receives the notification for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and the Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) receives the notification for the Commission on Emergency Planning and Response in Kansas.

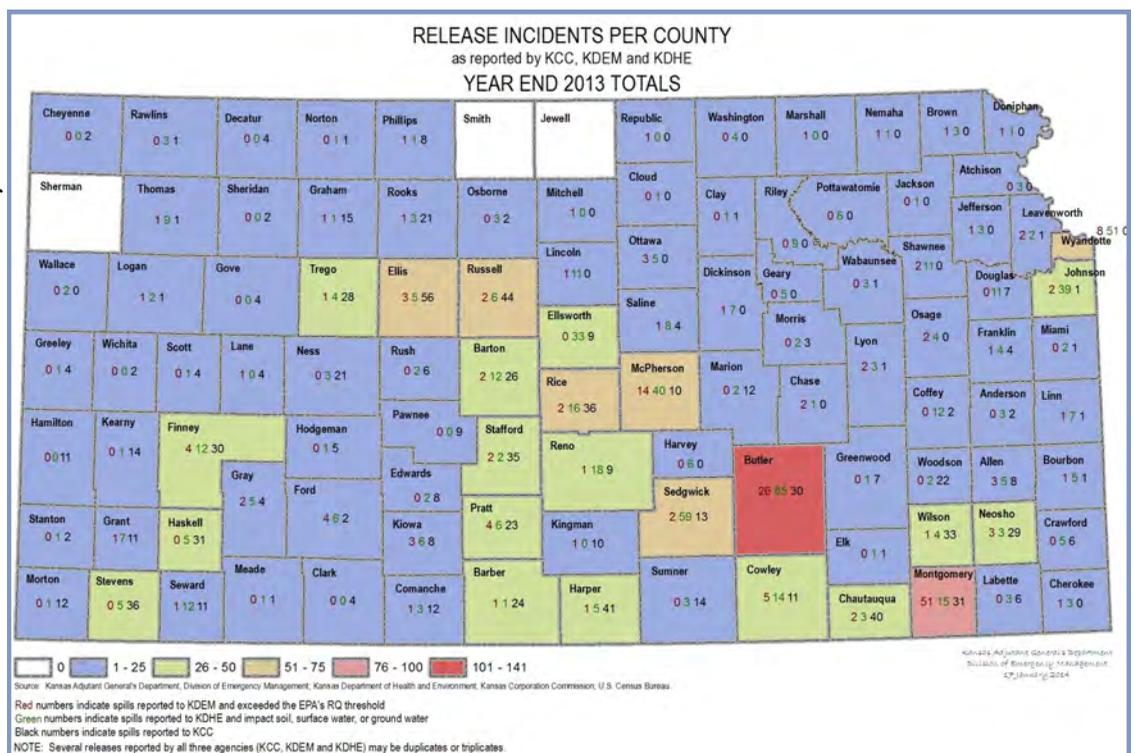
At the State level, there are three agencies that have an interest in spills and releases of hazardous materials. Spills are to be reported, by the spiller, to the appropriate agency, KDEM, KDHE, or the KCC. Each agency has their own requirements and thresholds for reporting spills or releases. Any spill or air release that exceeds the Reportable Quantity (RQ) for a hazardous chemical listed in the EPA’s SARA Title III List of Lists is reportable to KDEM. Any spill or release that impacts the water or soil is required to be reported to KDHE. Spills or releases at oil and gas exploration and production sites are required to be reported to the KCC.

Top 5 Commodities Most Frequently Reported to KDEM		
Commodity	Incidents	Total LBS Released
Anhydrous Ammonia	55	71,365
Sulfur Dioxide	40	3,395,072
Crude Oil	29	383,072
Diesel Fuel	21	143,846
Hydrogen Sulfide	15	9,855

In 2013, KDEM received 186 notifications that exceeded the RQ for a chemical. This is a 39% decrease from 2012. KDHE received 691 notifications, a 10% increase over last year, while KCC reported 958 releases, an increase of 6% over 2012.

The counties that had the most spills or releases reported to KDEM in 2013 were: Montgomery (51), Butler (26), McPherson (14), Wyandotte (8), and Cowley (5).

The primary locations of spills reported to KDEM were from fixed facilities, motor carriers, and pipelines.



2013 KDHE Response

By: Dan Wells, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Union Pacific Train Derailment, Hays, Ellis County

On July 16, 18 railcars, including three locomotives, derailed in the City of Hays. The Union Pacific railcars derailed when the main line track had been switched to a side track where the train collided with stationary cars. Two locomotives landed on their side, spilling 8,000 gallons of diesel fuel, and catching on fire.

The City of Hays Fire Department, along with fire departments from neighboring cities responded using approximately 1.65 million gallons of water and foaming agents to extinguish the fire. The high volume of water caused the diesel to migrate to surrounding properties and the road ditch. The KDHE District Office staff responded by providing oversight of the containment and recovery of the diesel and contaminated water.

Emergency response crews immediately dammed the ditch to prevent the contaminated water from entering Chetolah Creek. Eleven vacuum trucks were then used to recover the water and diesel from the ditch. Approximately 400,000 gallons of contaminated water and diesel were recovered from the ditch, derailment location, and neighboring properties. The contractors for UPRR treated the recovered water with carbon filters and disposed of it at the City of Hays Wastewater Plant.

KDHE's Most Investigated Spills

Investigated	Commodity
154	Diesel/Fuel Oil/Heating Oil
132	Electric Insulating Oil/Mineral Oil
53	Hydraulic Oil/Fluid
51	Crude Oil
43	Brine/Saltwater
31	Gasoline
28	Motor Oil
25	Contaminated Waste Water

The diesel fuel and other oil recovered from the site were disposed of by UPRR at their waste oil facility in Nebraska.

Cleanup of the site is complete. Some previously existing monitoring wells need to be replaced. Due to the quick and thorough response by local and state agencies, emergency response personnel, UPRR, and the contractors, extensive damage to the surrounding environment and threats to human health were averted.



Photographs were taken by KDHE District Office Staff during the emergency response.



EPA's 2012 Toxic Release Inventory Report

By: Jamie Schwartz, Kansas Division of Emergency Management

Over the past 25 years, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) has helped protect human health and the environment by providing valuable information to communities and emergency planners concerning toxic release information in their areas. EPCRA became part of the reauthorization act for Superfund in 1986 due to the public's demand for chemical release information following a devastating chemical accident in India.

In 1984, a deadly cloud of methyl isocyanate killed thousands of people in Bhopal, India. Shortly thereafter, there was a serious chemical release at a sister plant in West Virginia. These incidents caused industrial workers and communities in several states to demand information on hazardous materials in their area. The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) was enacted in 1986.

EPCRA's primary purpose is to inform communities and citizens of chemical hazards in their areas. Sections 311 and 312 of EPCRA require businesses to report the locations and quantities of chemicals stored on-site to state and local governments in order to help communities prepare and respond to chemical spills and similar emergencies. EPCRA Section 313 requires EPA and the States to annually collect data on releases and transfers of certain toxic chemicals from industrial facilities, and make the data available to the public in the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI).

The goal of TRI is to empower citizens, through information, to hold companies and local governments accountable in terms of how toxic chemicals are managed. Each year, facilities that meet certain thresholds must report their disposal or other releases and waste management activities for listed toxic chemicals to EPA and to the state or tribal entity in whose jurisdiction the facility is located. Each facility submits a TRI reporting form for each TRI chemical it has manufactured, processed, or otherwise used during the year in amounts exceeding the thresholds.

Reports for each Calendar Year are due by July 1 of the following year. After completion of data entry and data quality assurance activities, the EPA makes the TRI reporting data available to the

Total On- and Off-Site Disposal or Other Releases (in millions of pounds)		
Year	U.S.	Kansas
2008	3875.3	24.6
2009	3389.5	21.2
2010	3929.3	22.0
2011	4086.5	23.1
2012	3632.1	19.4

Figures for previous years may have changed slightly due to updated data that came into EPA after the July 1 deadline.

public via the TRI database. The official reports take up to two years to publish. However, preliminary data is available on the TRI website. The online database allows the public to research the type and amount of toxic chemicals released into the environment.

Armed with TRI data, communities have more power to hold companies accountable and make informed decisions about how toxic chemicals are to be managed. The data often spurs companies to focus on their chemical management practices since they are being measured and made public. In addition, the data serves as a rough indicator of environmental progress over time.

For the reporting year 2012, 297 facilities in Kansas were subject to reporting requirements for toxic release inventory chemicals, resulting in 19,416,528 pounds of material being released into the environment.

Types of Major Chemical Releases or Waste Generation in Kansas During 2012 (in pounds)	
Total On-Site Disposal or Other Releases	17,076,868
Air Releases	9,996,714
Water Releases	302,239
Land Releases	5,860,777
Underground Injection Wells	914,138
Total Off-Site Disposal or Other Releases	2,339,660
Total On- and Off-Site Disposal or Other Releases	19,416,528

Approximately 88% of the releases, or about 17 million pounds, occurred on-site, ranking Kansas 36th nationwide in total on-site disposal or other releases. Kansas ranked 32nd in 2011. There had been a steady decrease in the total number of pounds of chemicals disposed of or released between 2007 and 2009. An increase of 3.9% occurred in 2010, and 2011 saw a 4.5% increase.

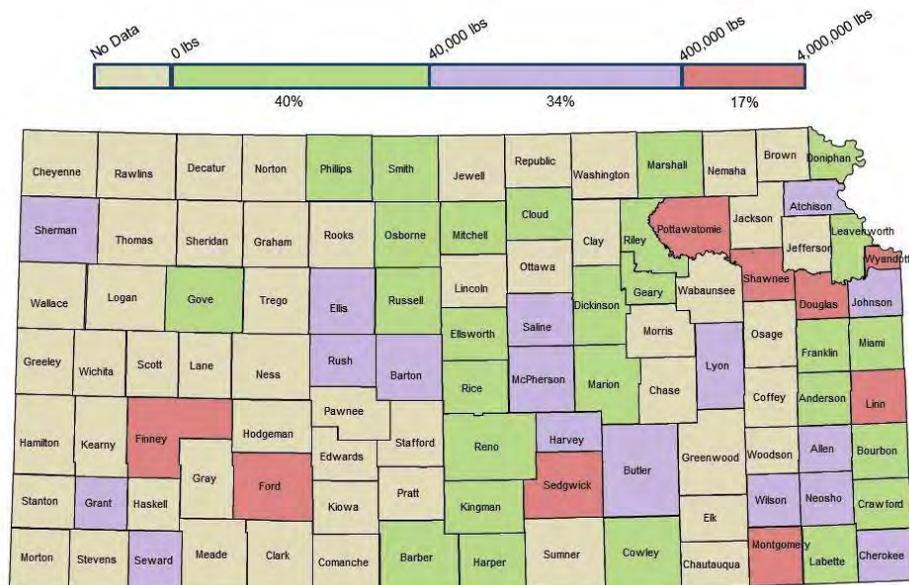
Trends for 2012 onsite disposal and releases identified fugitive air emissions increased by 27%, and overall air emissions (fugitive and point source) increased by approximately 6% for the state. Alternately, onsite underground injection well disposal decreased by 48% over last year. According to the TRI report, the most common type of release was to the air, accounting for approximately 58% of the total reported releases onsite for the State of Kansas.

The top five Kansas counties and their top TRI facilities reporting toxic releases were: Ford reporting 3,618,756 pounds; Wyandotte with 2,632,752; Linn with 2,019,526; Pottawatomie with 1,840,998; and Sedgwick with 1,497,308 pounds.

Users of TRI data should be aware that the data does not reflect whether (or to what degree) the public has been exposed to any of the TRI chemicals. Both the toxicity of a chemical and exposure considerations should be taken into account when examining the data. Some high-volume releases of less toxic chemicals may appear to be a more serious problem than lower volume releases of highly toxic chemicals, when just the opposite may be true.

For more information on toxic chemical releases, please contact the Kansas Division of Emergency Management or visit the EPA website at:

www.epa.gov/triexplorer



The map colors counties according to the total on-site disposal or other releases reported by TRI facilities in the county.

2012 TRI Releases for the Top Five Kansas Counties and their Facilities (Total On-Site and Off-site Disposal or Other Releases)

County	Facility	LBS per Facility	Total Pounds
Ford	Koch Nitrogen Co. LLC	2,979,230	3,618,756
	Cargill Meat Solutions Corp.	605,418	
	National Beef Packing Co. LLC	33,840	
	Other (2 facilities)	268	
Wyandotte	Amsted Rail Co—Griffin Wheel	661,999	2,632,752
	GM Fairfax Assembly	658,447	
	Nearman Creek Power Station	511,477	
	Quindaro Power Station, KC BPU	502,024	
	Other (22 facilities)	298,805	
Linn	Great Plains Energy, La Cygne	2,019,526	2,019,526
Pottawatomie	Jeffrey Energy Center	1,822,006	1,840,998
	Parker Hannifin	18,732	
	Caterpillar Work Tools & Service	260	
Sedgwick	Spirit Aerosystems Inc.	702,741	1,497,308
	Occidental Chemical Corp.	411,360	
	Cargill, Inc.	97,000	
	Air Products Manufacturing Corp.	57,140	
	Other (29 facilities)	229,067	

Fred the Preparedness Dog helps family and pet preparedness efforts

By: Michael McNulty, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Over the past year the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's (KDHE) Preparedness Program has unleashed a new outreach campaign: Fred the Preparedness Dog. Working to improve preparedness of families and pets, this two-year-old German Shepherd has sought to challenge children to improve their readiness.

Fred's story begins as a simple family dog in Kansas. As preparedness professionals, we all know the challenge of continually trying to get people to "Make a Plan, Make a Kit, and Stay Informed." By using Fred as a surrogate, KDHE is attempting to reach out to children ages five to twelve in a fun manner by showing them that even dogs can get themselves ready for emergencies. In September of 2011, KDHE used posed pictures of Fred taking shelter, wearing a backpack and holding a flashlight on an agency Twitter account and in an internal newsletter. Tweets were forwarded and feedback on the articles received indicated that people were taking notice. That October, Fred attended the KDEM October Preparedness Event in Gage Park and was a hit with the kids. Fast forward to March to when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) came to town for their annual site visit.

The federal site visitors, upon hearing about Fred's activities wanted to meet him. So Fred loaded up and to the state office he went to meet the project funding officers. He was a hit! CDC commented verbally and in the written site visit report that this

was an innovative method to outreach to an at-risk population and that Kansas should continue to build on the project. With that, Fred the Preparedness Dog took off with activity books, trading cards, temporary tattoos and stickers based on his likeness and all reinforcing the messages of preparedness.

Since April of 2013 Fred has over 2,600 interactions with the public and has traveled over 3,700 miles. His visits have taken him to schools, health and community fairs, the Kansas State Fair, health departments and even the Governor's office. He has been on television and was once even interviewed on the radio. During all of these actions Fred continues to focus on families preparing

for emergencies. He talks to kids about things they



Fred the Preparedness Dog is the mascot for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Preparedness Program. His mission is to increase family and pet preparedness for all types of emergencies.



Fred the Preparedness Dog joins Governor Sam Brownback and friends from the Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Emergency Management and the Kansas Adjutant General, as the Governor signs the proclamation making September "Kansas Preparedness Month."

can do to help the family make a plan and make a kit. For example, Fred shows his favorite toy that he carries in his emergency kit and challenges kids to think of a toy they would like to include in their family emergency kit. That way if they're in the shelter they have something to play with. Fred also urges families to think about their pets and how the family can help prepare them for emergencies. Having extra leashes, food, treats and toys are just some of the examples he gives to help get them started thinking about their pet's preparedness.



Fred loves talking to students about how to be ready and prepare for all hazard events. Here he is demonstrating what goes into a severe weather preparedness kit.

Fred also recognizes the importance of the entire emergency management and response community working together to improve preparedness. Whenever he can, Fred likes to share with kids that as emergency personnel, law enforcement, fire fighters, EMS professionals, medical personnel and others are there to help them

and to not be scared. He has worked with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism to help educate Kansans about the poisonous snakes in Kansas in hopes to reduce snake bites.

To help keep the message going to kids and families when they can't see him in person, Fred has developed a Facebook page and Twitter account. He uses these methods as a way to continually share his activities, pictures and things people can do to stay prepared for themselves, their families and their pets. Fred can be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FredThePreparednessDogKdhe> or on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/FredPrepDog>. He can be emailed at FredPreparedness@kdheks.gov.



Fred, his owner Michael McNulty, and Rob Ladner from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, discuss the dangers of venomous snakes that can be present in our state parks.



RIP STOP 2013 Exercise

By: Sandy Johnson, Kansas Department of Agriculture

The Kansas Department of Agriculture partnered with several stakeholder groups to design and conduct the RIP STOP 2013 Exercise in Manhattan, Topeka and Westmoreland, Kansas on October 9th and 10th of 2013. The exercise was conceived as a follow-up exercise to the SAMS KO (Stop Animal Movement Statewide – Kansas/Oklahoma) exercise from 2009. As we began to develop the exercise, the Kansas State University expressed an interest to test their plans, and they were added to planning team. The planning team was assembled and many meetings, seminars, and tabletop exercises were conducted to orient stakeholders on roles and responsibilities and new updates to state level plans. With the KDA scheduled to move to Manhattan in 2014, this created an opportunity to test our ability to operate outside of the capital city.

The exercise kicked off on the morning of October 9th with a simulated USDA 50-State conference call to announce a presumptive case of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Alabama. Based on the information provided in the call, state veterinarians issued “Stop Movement” orders and various Incident Management Teams were activated. KDA used the Standard Operating Guide for Border Movement Control and notified stakeholder groups regarding the issuance of the order. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was activated in Topeka and checkpoints (simulated) were activated at over 30 locations on Kansas borders. Nebraska, Colorado and Missouri officials also

Where did the name RIP STOP come from?

At the Kick Off meeting in 2012 a veterinarian suggested the name to account for the participation of Riley and Pottawatomie Counties and the STOP movement component of the exercise.

participated in the exercise by working with Dr. Bill Brown, the Kansas Animal Health Commissioner, to ensure that all of the states were enforcing the order in a consistent manner. The KDA Incident Management Team was activated and worked out of the Bioscience Research Institute on the K-State campus.

A branch under the operations section was established at the KDA building on Forbes Field in Topeka. This group was responsible for receiving the permits that were sent in by the checkpoints and border-states. They use a document management system to electronically file the permits in order to retrieve them later, should the situation change. For example, at the time of the original order, only vehicles that had originated from or traveled through a county in Alabama would have been diverted to a holding area. As the incident expands, other risk areas are identified and animal health officials need to be able to determine “at risk” vehicles that may have been allowed to travel through the state previously. The ability to rapidly search through hundreds (maybe thousands) of permits to determine what may have come through new risk areas is extremely important and not possible with a paper based system. The inability to track permits was identified as a major area for improvement in the SAMS KO exercise.

Exercise play occurred in Manhattan, Topeka, and Westmoreland. Over 200 players participated in the two day exercise.



Approximately half way through the first day, the Veterinary Health Center notified the Animal Health Commissioner of a suspicious animal at the College. A Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician was dispatched and the Incident Command Structured was expanded accordingly. Eventually the case at the college was confirmed and traced to another premises in Kansas.

It was a very busy two days for the 200 plus players that participated. After action documentation showed that the exercise was very stressful and realistic. Many lessons were learned and the resulting improvement plan will serve as a roadmap for KDA and the other participating organizations to prioritize action in the future.

What did we learn?

Kansas agencies have been working very diligently for years to improve our readiness to respond to all hazards. We are leaders in a variety of areas that were demonstrated during the exercise. Some examples:

- ◆ **The Comprehensive Resource Management and Credentialing System (CRMCS) allows us to maintain resource accountability;**
- ◆ **The National Incident Management System is fully adopted by all Kansas responders – we know and use the various parts of the system; and**
- ◆ **Plans and procedures for all hazards exist and they were followed.**

The complexity of an FMD response and the uniqueness of the authorities at a variety of jurisdictional levels results in many challenges that were demonstrated in the exercise. An incident of this nature has not happened in our experience so there is no opportunity to practice with actual events. Exercises were consistently cited in participant feedback forms as a way to improve readiness. More exercises are planned in 2014.

Clarity of terms and operational coordination were the areas where most improvement is needed. Just-in-time training and more consistent processes for information flow and resource management will be key focus areas for KDA and the Division of Animal Health as we prepare to work with Kansas Homeland Security Regional groups in 2014. Six tabletop and two functional exercises will give us an opportunity to gauge progress and continue to benchmark our preparedness efforts.

RIP STOP 2013 Participant List

- ◆ **Kansas Department of Agriculture**
- ◆ **Kansas Governor's Office**
- ◆ **Kansas Highway Patrol**
- ◆ **Kansas Division of Emergency Management**
- ◆ **Kansas Department of Transportation**
- ◆ **Kansas State University**
- ◆ **Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism**
- ◆ **Kansas Department of Health and Environment**
- ◆ **Riley County**
- ◆ **City of Manhattan**
- ◆ **Pottawatomie County**
- ◆ **Livestock Marketing Association**
- ◆ **Midwest Dairy Association**
- ◆ **Kansas Pork Association**
- ◆ **Kansas Farm Bureau**
- ◆ **Kansas Livestock Association**
- ◆ **Kansas Veterinary Medical Assn**
- ◆ **Sedgwick County Zoo**
- ◆ **Kansas National Guard**
- ◆ **Colorado Dept of Agriculture**
- ◆ **Nebraska Dept of Agriculture**
- ◆ **Missouri Dept of Agriculture**
- ◆ **Kansas Forest Service**
- ◆ **Iowa State University**
- ◆ **Oklahoma State University**
- ◆ **Michigan Dept of Agriculture**
- ◆ **New Mexico Dept of Agriculture**
- ◆ **IA Dept of Emergency Mgmt and Homeland Security**
- ◆ **Texas Board of Animal Health**
- ◆ **Midwest Card**

2013 Wolf Creek Ingestion Pathway Exercise

By: Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs Office

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management, agencies from the state of Kansas, along with Coffey County participated in a FEMA graded test of their emergency planning and response capabilities Nov. 5-6 in support of the Wolf Creek Generating Station in Burlington, Kan.

Of the routine biannual exercises, every six years (soon to be eight years) the evaluation addresses plume and ingestion pathway. Day 1 evaluates radiological emergency preparedness and response plans. Day 2 addresses the plume and ingestion pathway, which evaluates the ability of the participants to deal with the effects of a radiological incident on agriculture and the environment within a 50-mile radius of the plant. It also addresses the ability to make decisions regarding the relocation or return of residents evacuated during a radiological emergency.

The FEMA Region VII Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program evaluated the ability of the state of Kansas, Coffey County and the plant on its state and local radiological emergency preparedness and response plans to protect the health and safety of the public living and working in the vicinity of the Wolf Creek Generating Station. The on-site performance at the Wolf Creek Generating Station was observed and evaluated by officials from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The after action report from FEMA and the initial results from



Kansas Department of Health and Environment staff receive field samples at the KDHE State Laboratory located at Forbes Field on Day 2 of the exercise. (Photo courtesy of KDHE)

the Nuclear Regulatory Commission show that the exercise went well and all those involved including the state, the county and the plant demonstrated their objectives successfully.

“This was a very successful exercise but there are always things we can do better,” said Cathy Autrey, emergency planning instructor at the Wolf Creek Generating Station. “We demonstrated the criteria that were required. We showed the team work among the agencies and everyone involved and

This exercise tested the Wolf Creek Generating Station offsite response organizations' ability to assess and respond to emergency conditions as well as coordinate efforts with other agencies for protection of the health and safety of the public.

From left to right: George Blush, KDA; Captain Eric Pippin, KHP; Peter Carttar, KDOT; and Isabelle Busenitz, KDHE. (Photo courtesy of KDHE)



how we can make decisions and do the right thing to protect the health and safety of the public.”

The scenario involved the simulated evacuation of the plant and several areas around the plant, as well as testing environmental samples following the simulated release from the plant. FEMA evaluated these processes, the timeliness and accuracy of information released to the public, and the use of the broadcast emergency alert system.

The evaluated exercise provides reasonable assurance that the appropriate protective measures can be taken in the event of a radiological emergency.

“This exercise is a perfect example of how the state, county and plant come together and work as one team to protect the citizens of Kansas,” said Jonathan York, Response and Recovery Branch Director for KDEM. “The whole point of holding an exercise is so that if a real event happens the response becomes second nature and everyone knows what needs to be done.”

The objective of the exercise was to test the implementation of the plans and procedures of participating agencies, along with the capability of these agencies to conduct operations in accordance with these plans.

In addition to the full-scale plume and ingestion exercises held on November 5-6, 2013, two out-of-sequence drills occurred on November 4 and November 21. On November 4, the Burlington Unified School District (USD) #244 was evaluated through an out-of-sequence interview. On November 21, the staff at Newman Regional Health in Emporia and the Emporia Fire Department/Lyon County EMS participated in a medical emergency drill to demonstrate procedures for transporting contaminated, injured, or exposed individuals to the medical facility where monitoring, decontamination, and contamination control efforts were evaluated.



LEFT: Members from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency work together in the “mini-FRMAC” (Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center) to coordinate and manage the environmental and assessment activities on Day 2 of the exercise. (Photo courtesy of KDHE)

RIGHT: Stake holders and representatives from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Wolf Creek Generating Station and Coffey County come together to make up the Policy Group during a Wolf Creek pre-exercise held Oct. 31 in the State Defense Building, Topeka, Kan. (Photo courtesy of KDHE)



Disaster Preparedness: The Zombie Way

By: Devan Tucking-Strickler, Kansas Division of Emergency Management

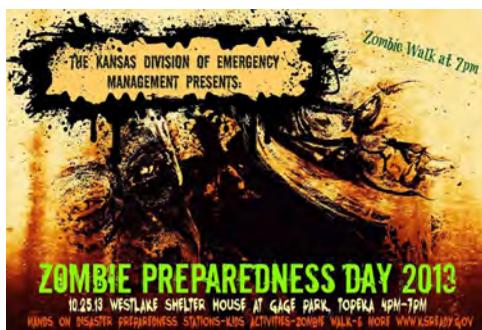
The undead are coming! Or are they? Not really, but this sci-fi twist is a fun way to encourage and promote disaster preparedness, because if you are prepared for zombies, then you are prepared for anything! Every October the Kansas Division of Emergency Management hosts Zombie Preparedness Month, a preparedness outreach campaign to increase the preparedness of citizens for disasters and emergencies.

Build a kit, make a plan, be informed are the basic components of disaster preparedness. Building a disaster kit for your family that contains food, water, and other essentials to provide for your family and pets for up to 72 hours can lessen the impact that a disaster may have on you and your family. Family emergency planning helps households consider possible emergency and disaster situations that may impact their family, talk about these threats as a group, and plan and practice what to do if the unexpected occurs. Being informed about disaster preparedness, severe weather, and other threats can help keep your family safe. “Our Zombie Preparedness Fair brought dozens of families from across Shawnee County to Gage Park to learn more about how to prepare for emergencies of all kinds. It was very gratifying to hear some of their specific questions about preparedness kits for their homes and vehicles,” commented Paula Hladky, Douglas County Medical Reserve Corps. “The displays included information about everything from food storage, to personal ‘to-go-buckets’, to automobile preparedness kits, to how to make a disaster plan for your family and how to do a home disaster drill. Many useful items were available to help families start their disaster kit and the zombified costumes and makeup added a fun touch to disaster preparedness. After all, if you are prepared for a zombie invasion, you’re ready for a flood or a tornado in Kansas!”

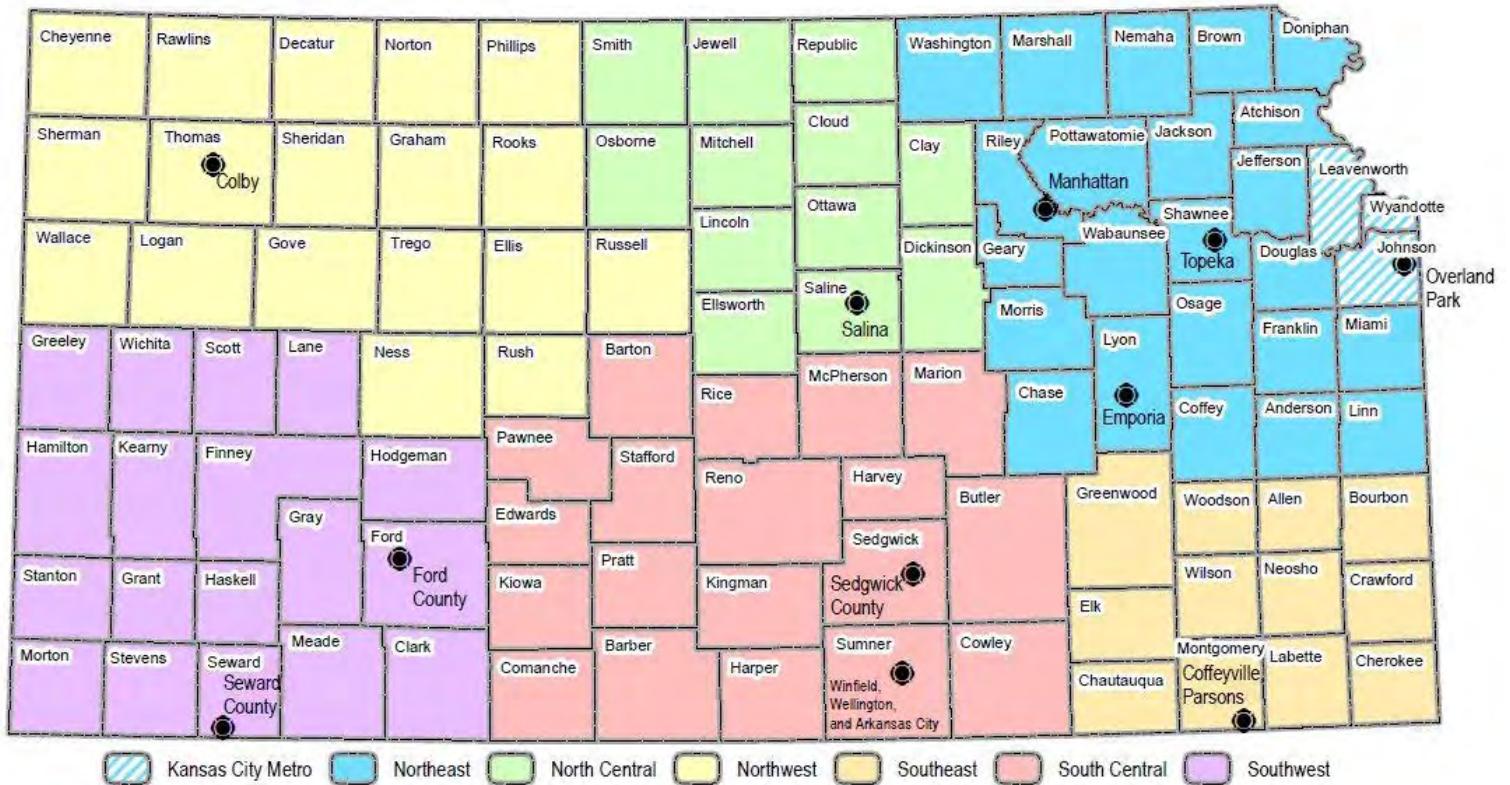
Zombie Preparedness Day was held on October 25th at Gage Park in Topeka, Kansas. This year’s event focused on the concepts of build a kit, make a plan, be informed in partnership with other

organizations such as Shawnee County Emergency Management, Shawnee County and Douglas County Medical Reserve Corps, Humane Society of the United States, Topeka Fire Department, Civil Air Patrol, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Fred the Preparedness Dog, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and American Medical Response Topeka. “The Zombie Event was great fun to balance out the seriousness of preparedness. I was amazed at the amount of people interested food storage. It goes to show that there are people out there besides me that think having a few food items laid by is a smart strategy,” commented Renee Aldrich, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Upon entering the preparedness fair attendees received a card from a deck of playing cards that determined their zombie status and illustrated the spread of illness, from there attendees learned about building a disaster kit or disaster bucket, creating a go-bag for their car, food storage, pet preparedness, health preparedness, weather awareness, and family disaster planning. Individuals could also have weather radios programmed to help keep their households safe and informed. Each station provided citizens with some item to be placed in their disaster kit to start the preparedness process. Attendees were quizzed on disaster preparedness throughout the event with the risk of being sent to zombie quarantine for inaccurate answers to questions. “The squadron used the event as a communication exercise. This was very successful for training for us. We placed our cadets into key positions where they had to interact with the public. Working the Zombie Quarantine placed our cadets in a position where they had to show authority and yet compassion for the public for whom we are entrusted to support. Bottom line is that everyone had a good time, even if it was a little on the cold side,” commented Maj. Michael Mathewson, Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron Commander, Kansas Civil Air Patrol. Don’t worry, after learning some new disaster preparedness information all “zombified” individuals were released. The evening ended with a zombie walk.



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