

Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response

Managing the Risk



2017 Annual Report

Managing the Risk 2017



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Governor of the State of Kansas

Major General Lee Tafanelli

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Commission on Emergency Planning and Response Membership

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Vacant

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Commission on Emergency Planning & Response (CEPR) Overview

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 the SERC to implement EPCRA in the State of Kansas and to mitigate the effects of a release or spill of hazardous materials.

The Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response (CEPR), established by K.S.A. Chapter 65, Article 57 Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know 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. This is achieved by advising and assisting local agencies in the mitigation of hazards and emergency preparedness through aiding in the development of emergency plans, training, and exercises by reviewing the response to Kansas emergencies and recommending improvements for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery for future disasters, and through 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 governmental organizations and industry. Membership of the CEPR includes agency heads from the Adjutant General's Department, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Department of Transportation, Department of Health and Environment, Highway Patrol, Department of Commerce, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, and Department of Agriculture. In addition to agency heads, the Governor appoints eighteen members from various state and local agencies including 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. By including more experts in discussions, it allows 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 CEPR

The purpose of the Commission on Emergency Planning and Response is to facilitate a coordinated effort for mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery from emergencies and disasters in Kansas.

The CEPR has the following functions, powers, and duties:

1. Carry out all requirements of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA):
 - Appoint, supervise and coordinate the activities of each Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC);
 - Receive certain reports and notifications required by EPCRA;
 - Make facility reports and notifications available to the public;
 - Annually review local emergency response plans prepared by the LEPCs.
2. Provide assistance and advice in establishing policy for the coordination of state agency activities relating to emergency training, preparedness, planning, and response.
3. Provide assistance and advice in establishing policy and procedures for chemical release reporting and prevention, transportation, manufacture, storage, handling, and use.
4. Facilitate and advise the Division of Emergency Management, the Adjutant General, and others in the preparation and implementation of all emergency plans prepared by state agencies.
5. Facilitate and advise the Division of Emergency Management, the Adjutant General, and others in the preparation and implementation of statewide, inter-jurisdictional, and local emergency plans prepared in accordance with state and federal law.
6. Designate, and revise as necessary, the boundaries of the emergency planning districts in accordance with the federal act.
7. Approve the local emergency planning committee for each emergency planning district.

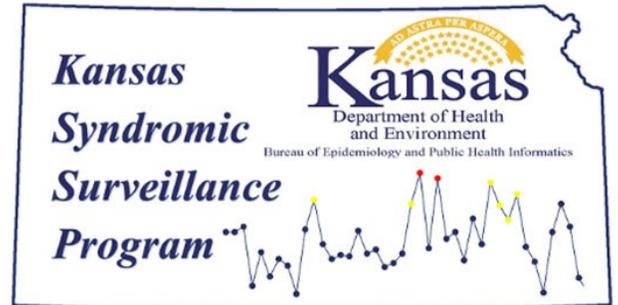
Roles and Responsibilities of CEPR Cont.

6. Review reports about responses to disaster emergencies and make recommendations to the appropriate parties involved in the response concerning improved prevention, mitigation, and preparedness.
7. Provide assistance and advice to the Division of Emergency Management, and the Adjutant General in coordinating, advising, or planning tasks related to Community Right-to-Know reporting, toxic chemical release reporting, management of hazardous substances, emergency planning and preparedness for all types of hazards, and emergency planning and preparedness for all types of disasters.
8. Recommend procedures to integrate, as appropriate, hazardous substance response planning.
9. Provide recommendations and advice to the Adjutant General and the Secretary of Health and Environment regarding the adoption of regulations as authorized to carry out the purposes of all state hazard preparedness and planning laws and the federal act.
10. Approve the fees established by rules and regulations of the Adjutant General to cover all or part of the total operational costs of implementing the provisions of the federal act.
11. Provide assistance and advice to the Division of Emergency Management and the Adjutant General in developing and implementing a plan for regional emergency medical response teams.

Kansas Syndromic Surveillance Growing and Coverage Increases

By: Zachary Stein, MPH, Epidemiologist, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is continuing to develop the Kansas Syndromic Surveillance Program (KSSP) involving the collection of hospital emergency department (ED) visits across the state under grant funding from the CDC's National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP).



Unlike more traditional data sources, syndromic surveillance can be incredibly fast data that shows emergency room visits in near real-time. This has resulted in KSSP data being used in a multitude of projects, including the 2016 chemical release in Atchison, the chemical plant fire in Neodesha, emergency preparedness during major storms, and surveillance of mass gathering events.

State-wide coverage is a primary goal of KSSP to ensure our ability to support projects at the interstate, state, and local levels. KSSP has continued hospital onboarding efforts over the last year. This has resulted in the addition of 15 ED facilities that meet our production-quality data standards.

As of January 2017, KSSP receives ED visit data from 91 facilities at excellent quality and data from an additional 29 facilities while they work with us on data quality. This equates to high quality data on an estimated 85% of all emergency room visits across the state and 13% more of the visits at varying quality through our data testing servers. Having access to over 98% of the ED visits across the state means KSSP will have a rich, current data set for future public health emergency events. Next steps for 2017 involve onboarding urgent care facilities to increase the data set and usability in these events.

2017 KSSP projects have seen improvement of Influenza-Like Illness surveillance, increased data access by Kansas Local Health Departments, and collaboration with other State entities including Safe Kids Kansas and the Office of the State Fire Marshal (**Figure A**). Kansas Local Health Departments with access to KSSP data are the Coffey County Health Department, Crawford County Health Department, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, Neosho County Health Department, Reno County Health Department, Riley County Health Department, Saline County Health Department, Scott County Health Department, Sedgwick County Health Department, Stanton County Health Department, and Unified Government of Wyandotte County/KCK.

Kansas Syndromic Surveillance Cont.

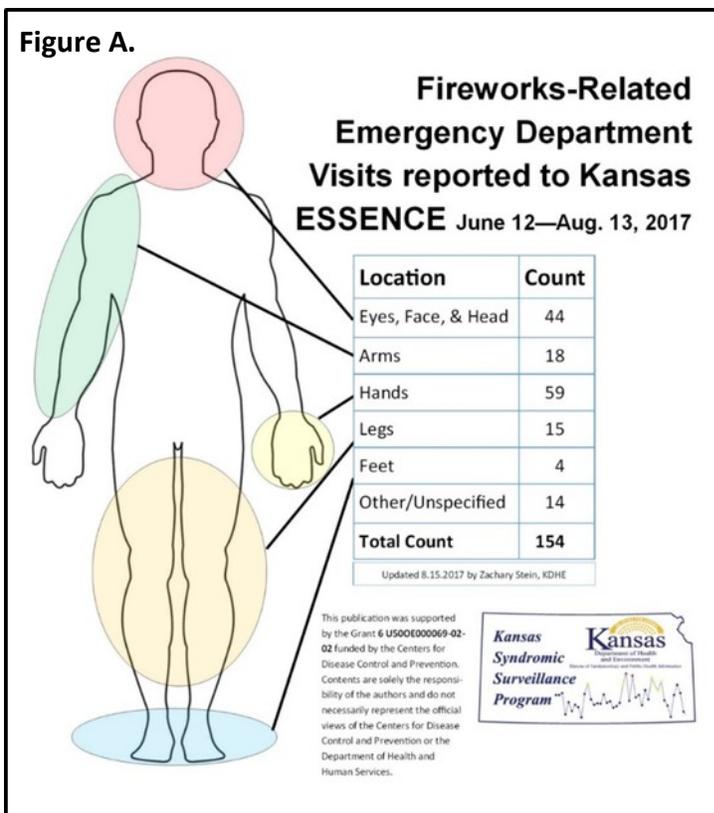
KSSP is continuing to develop surveillance methods in cooperation with Kansas Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT). KSSP data is regularly used by Kansas EPHT for conditions related to asthma, carbon monoxide poisoning, gunshot wounds, car crashes, heat injuries and illness, hypothermia and frostbite, and other ED visits due to extreme weather events. Kansas EPHT shares time series of ED visits related to heat illnesses and hypothermia and frostbite on a regular basis during summer and winter seasons respectively through its web portal: <https://keap.kdhe.state.ks.us/Ephtm/PortalPages/ContentData>

KSSP is continuing to work closely with the CDC's National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP). Recent work by the NSSP ensures that major emergency events will have excellent coverage and data for emergency managers and public health preparedness. NSSP agreements are in the works to provide streaming data from Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) teams deployed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. The system showed great promise and excellent data during the recent hurricanes in Florida and Texas and the NSSP hopes that data connectivity can be provided in the future when DMATs are deployed across the U.S.

For more information on the Kansas Syndromic Surveillance Program – please visit http://www.kdheks.gov/phi/Syndromic_Surveillance.htm

or Contact KDHE.Syndromic@KS.Gov

For more information on the National Syndromic Surveillance Program – Please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/nssp/index.html>



Data collection was supported by the Grant or Cooperative Agreement Number 1 U50 OE00069-01, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Health and Human Services.

Kansas Agriculture Emergency Response Corps

By: David Hogg, Kansas Department of Agriculture

The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) recently launched a volunteer corps that is the first of its kind in the nation – a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary team designed to be utilized alongside state, local, or federal responders in an agricultural incident. Dubbed the Kansas Agriculture Emergency Response Corps, this effort will capitalize on the passion and expertise of Kansans to protect the state’s largest industry.

Recent incidents in Kansas, including the 2017 wildfires and the 2015 highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak, the annual KDA functional exercise, and lessons learned from other states and nations that have dealt with high-impact agricultural events highlighted the need for a team dedicated to respond rapidly and efficiently to an incident.

The volunteer corps is managed by emergency management staff within the Office of the Secretary at KDA. Kansans who are interested in joining the corps are asked to submit an application detailing their experience, training, and education in both agriculture and emergency response. Volunteers must also sign and submit a Memorandum of Understanding and Code of Conduct forms to the agency. Every volunteer also undergoes training related to the FEMA Incident Command System as well as KDA’s own Food and Agriculture Annex, a part of the Kansas Response Plan.

One of the unique aspects of the volunteer corps is its scope. While other states, including Kansas at one time, maintain lists of veterinarians who are willing to assist in an animal disease outbreak, restricting the volunteer pool to veterinarians results in missing many qualified and passionate individuals. The Kansas Agriculture Emergency Response Corps identifies 23 positions that volunteers can sign up for and be trained to fill during an incident.

The positions cover the broad categories of Communications, Animal Health, Resource Management, and General Support.

Members of the volunteer corps are already proving their value to Kansas. During December’s “Phoenix” functional exercise, which KDA held December 18th through 20th, volunteer corps members participated in numerous ways. This included working with KDA field staff doing mock disease investigations at participating sites across the state, working as part of the KDA Incident Management Team at the Incident Command Post in Manhattan, and serving as phone bank operators and callers throughout the course of the exercise.

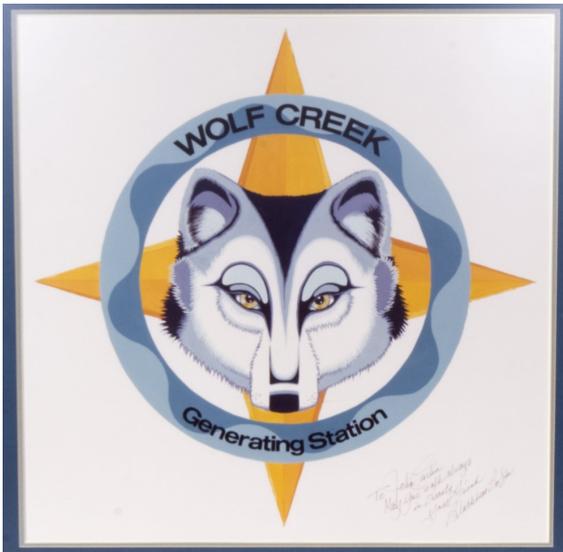
The long-term goal of the KDA volunteer corps is to have members in every county of the state. To this end, KDA has partnered with several statewide organizations, including Kansas Farm Bureau and Kansas State University Research and Extension, to get the word out about this new volunteer opportunity. KDA emergency management staff will also be holding one-day emergency response training workshops across the state during both the spring and fall for volunteer training and recruitment.



While the ultimate goal would be to never have to activate this volunteer corps for a real-life incident, having a trained, statewide team to assist in the midst of a major agricultural incident is seen as a tremendous value to not only the Kansas Department of Agriculture but the state as a whole.

2017 Wolf Creek Plume Phase Evaluated Exercise

By: Jacob Henry, Kansas Division of Emergency Management



On November 14th, 2017, Kansas held a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) evaluated Plume Phase Wolf Creek exercise. This exercise included participation from private, local, and state entities.

A great success, the exercise produced insights into the ways we can improve our processes and plans contributing to the overall success of our goal to protect the safety of Kansas citizens.

Plume phase exercises, like other nuclear exercises, are required to be federally evaluated

on a rotating cycle.

This full-scale exercise (FSE) afforded stakeholders the opportunity to identify areas of improvement, as well as implement new solutions learned from the 2016 exercise cycle. The After Action process netted a valuable improvement plan, as we head into Ingestion Pathway exercises slated for 2018 and 2019.

This exercise scenario contained injects not only valuable for onsite play – but for offsite objectives as well. Using Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) methodology continues to be a positive feature of our process. A delivery of a Simulation Cell (SimCell) Course prior to the exercise netted improved use of the SimCell – and enhanced exercise play.

The 2017 Plume Phase Wolf Creek exercise received glowing reviews from evaluators and successfully passed evaluated criteria.

Secure Food Supply

By: David Hogg, Kansas Department of Agriculture

In the event of a foreign animal disease outbreak preparation has often focused on the response and recovery aspects of an incident. Preparedness efforts generally consist of coordination between state, local, and federal response agencies and general public and industry education efforts. A new initiative, however, has brought the oft-overlooked phase of mitigation into the mix for producers in the state through biosecurity planning and the Secure Food Supply process.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) has long focused a great deal of time and effort into preparedness efforts for foreign animal disease response. As a nationwide leader in any number of agricultural metrics, and as the state's largest economic industry, KDA sees its task in protecting the livestock industry across Kansas as herculean. This explains the agency's commitment to holding an annual multi-day functional exercise each December to simulate a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak. KDA recently completed its fifth-consecutive exercise, called "Phoenix," during December 2017.

The Phoenix 2017 exercise saw over 240 individual participants across Kansas and three other states work for three days to practice a response to a major foreign animal disease event taking place across North America. Significant time was spent on topics such as disease surveillance, resource tracking, coordination with local responders, coordination with industry groups (both local and national), and the release of public information.

One of the topics that is a consistent source of both questions and some consternation is the movement of animals or animal products to market during a disease outbreak. While the general playbook during such an event is to stop the movement of susceptible species to decrease disease spread as quickly as possible, industry and producer concerns about doing unnecessary damage to the food supply chain are valid. For the first time during such an exercise, KDA personnel had something of an answer thanks to the implementation of Secure Food Supply plans.

The Secure Food Supply concept began around eggs. The poultry industry sought a methodology to move products that were considered low risk during a disease event. The 2015 highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak across much of the United States brought home the importance of having such a means to continue business even when normal day-to-day business practices were disrupted. Thanks to a grant from the USDA, Iowa State University's Center for Food Safety and Public Health began putting together working groups of academic, regulatory, and industry experts to come up with guidance for such movement.

The results were the Secure Food Supply Plans:

- ◆ Secure Poultry
- ◆ Secure Milk
- ◆ Secure Pork
- ◆ Secure Beef

Secure Food Supply Cont.

During the summer of 2017, the KDA began a project to operationalize these plans on real-world premises. Utilizing interns from Kansas State University, KDA staff worked with dairy and feedlot groups in the state to write the first plans.

Because of the need to move milk immediately during a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak, priority was given to dairies that produce more than one truckload of milk a day. Seven dairies and one processor in southwest Kansas came on-board through efforts during the summer, with operation-specific plans. Likewise, because of the time crunch that dairies often find themselves operating within, numerous other states have undertaken the Secure Milk planning process and have even coordinated with KDA on certain guidance and understandings across state lines.

Secure Beef has proven to be a different sort of challenge. While dairies are crunched for time, feedlots and other beef producers can often wait longer before movement is necessary. The challenge for feedlots, however, is the lack of day-to-day biosecurity that is often seen in the dairy, swine, and poultry industry. A largely educational component is often needed for feedlot personnel to understand the need for biosecurity practices and in particular the enhanced biosecurity that would be put in place during a disease outbreak. Even so, Kansas is the first and only state in the nation, as of this writing, to have written operation-specific Secure Beef Supply plans for facilities in the state.

The goals of the Secure Food Supply plans are really two-fold. First, by enhancing day-to-day biosecurity during a disease outbreak an operation will reduce their risk of getting the disease. This will help with overall disease spread but is primarily designed to protect the owner's herd or flock. The second goal is to allow for permitted movement of products during a disease outbreak. Through enhancing their biosecurity, training their employees on good biosecurity practices, and keeping detailed herd health and production records, a facility can request an emergency movement permit from the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Commissioner. These permits will allow for the movement of animals or products even when general animal movement is stopped during the initial phase of a disease response.

KDA is committed to being a leader in the nation for protecting our food supply through the implementation of these plans. Recently, four new interns from Kansas State University came on board with KDA to continue the planning process for new facilities. This includes adding Secure Pork Supply plans to the suite of plans being written by the agency. Long-term, KDA would like to see a significant portion of the state's livestock covered under one of these Secure Food Supply Plans – an opportunity to mitigate against both disease spread and food supply disruption.

HMEP Grant Updates

By: Swapan K Saha, PhD, MHSA,
Kansas Division of Emergency Management

On December 4, 2015, President Obama signed the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub. L. No. 114-94) into law which impacted the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant program.

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) implements the HMEP grant program. A new funding allocation formula was adopted by USDOT that include factors such as risk assessment, frequency and severity of incidents, highway miles, and chemical facilities present in a jurisdiction into consideration for determining how much funding states will receive: Year 1 (FFY2016) allocation remained the same for Kansas in the first year, allocation for year 2 and 3 was reduced approximately by 10%.

To make states accountable for handling the program efficiently, future year funding was made dependent on the grantee's (state) progress. If a grantee lacks basic levels of progress in the grant project across the first year and funds remain unobligated at the end of first year of the grant cycle, year 3 funding will be offset by the same amount. It is incumbent upon the grantees and sub grantees that they utilize the awarded funds to its full extent. De-obligation of funds at the end of the grant performance period could have a negative effect on the future HMEP funding allocation for Kansas.

De-obligated funds are placed in an offset pool and the monies from this pool are awarded to the grantees through a supplemental program on competitive basis in the 3rd year. USDOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) requires that all grantees submit an annual report each year and a final report at the end of the grant program. Additionally, KDEM, requires that all sub-grantees submit a quarterly report. This process assists with monitoring sub-grantee activities and reducing de-obligations.

The new law also combined planning and training grants into one grant. This means all of the allocated funds can be utilized for planning or training activities depending on prioritized needs and not based on a formula. Additionally, the 75% pass-through requirement previously in place has been removed. However, the states must spend at least 75% of the awarded funds for programmatic activities. In Kansas, typically, more than 90% of the grant funds are awarded to the sub-grantees. The match requirement of the grant did not change. A 20% non-federal match, soft and/or hard cash, is required for all HMEP funded projects.

HMEP Grant Updates Cont.

All HMEP fund recipients should have an auditable accounting system. In the event that a local jurisdiction or an eligible entity does not have written fiscal policies in place, the Uniform Administrative Guideline 2CFR200 will apply. Between the 2CFR200 and local fiscal policies, the most restrictive ones shall prevail.

As out year funding is subject to the availability of funds from USDOT, KDEM will continue to implement the HMEP grant program on a year-to-year basis at the sub-grantee level. LEPCs are allowed to submit multi-year projects, however out year funding will still be on yearly basis. Future funding is subject to the availability of funds. In addition to awarding HMEP grant funds to locals through the sub grant process, KDEM also funds various training activities through University of Kansas Fire and Rescue Training Institute (KF&RTI) and The Office of Kansas Fire Marshal (OSFM). The KF&RTI training is offered in five areas, namely, *Hazardous Materials Operation (NFPA 472)*, *Hazardous Material On-Scene Commander*, *Handling Propane Emergencies*, *Response to Ethanol Incidents*, and *Responding to Chlorine and Anhydrous Ammonia Incidents*. To schedule these courses the local jurisdictions can contact:

KF&RTI at (785)864-1073

or contact

Russell Greene at rtgreene@ku.edu

A minimum of 10 students are required for each class.

The OSFM also provides hazmat technician training and similar trainings through HMEP grant funds.

For hazmat technician training, please contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal:

Hank DuPont at (785)296-4239, or email to Hank.DuPont@ks.gov.

KDEM Directive #3006 outlines the process for requesting training courses that are state and federal level courses offered through the federal grant funds. Sub-grant applicants must contact KDEM's Training Office for approval of the proposed training in the application.

References:

HMEP Expenditure Guide- (<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/grants/hazmat/hmep-guidance-resources>)

HMEP Webinar - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JfdMIwdpYA&feature=youtu.be>

Rural Residents Prepare – High Wildfire Danger

By: Jason Hartman, Kansas Forest Service,
Kansas Prescribed Fire Council

Kansas Forest Service, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, and local fire agencies advise that Kansans can, and should prepare and protect their homes from wildfire.

Rural firefighters already have faced a clear demonstration that Kansas is at risk earlier in 2017 than is typically considered fire season, and relief may not be coming any time soon. The National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook, available the first of each month at; https://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/outlooks/monthly_seasonal_outlook.pdf predicts Kansas to remain in “Above Normal” fire potential into May.

While federal, state, county, and local fire management agencies continue wildland fire preparations there are important steps that residents can take to defend their property in the event of a wildfire.

Jason Hartman, Fire Protection Specialist with the Kansas Forest Service, offers simple steps that can have a big impact on reducing a home’s risks:

- Don’t store firewood or other flammable materials under decks, overhangs, or elevated porches.
- Keep such combustibles at least 30 feet from the house.
- Don’t allow dead organic material – leaves, needles, twigs – to accumulate anywhere on the house exterior. Clear roofs, gutters, window sills, window wells, window boxes, porches, decks and the like (then, keep them clear).
- Cut back dried ornamental grasses, remove any other highly flammable garden debris, and dispose of the dry material safely.
- Keep lawns mowed and as green as possible.

Overall, it is important that residents work to create a barrier to the spread of intense flames close to the home and reduce any flammable receptor that wind carried embers could land on and ignite a fire near, on, or in a structure.

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Rural Residents Prepare– High Wildfire Danger Cont.

Suburban and rural residents are advised to also prepare with a three-part wildfire readiness plan: Ready, Set, GO!

READY

This step involves wildfire preparedness and home defense plans such as those outlined previously. This step also includes having an emergency go-kit prepared in case evacuation becomes necessary.

Information about how to create a go kit for all kinds of emergencies can be found at <https://www.ready.gov/>.

“Ready” is also staying aware of elevated fire weather conditions, available at <https://www.weather.gov/>.

SET

Being “set” includes staying informed of weather conditions via local news, radio, and social media from your local fire and emergency management agencies about the elevated potential for wildland fires or fires in the surrounding area. If a fire threatens your property get prepared to evacuate! This could require a longer lead time if livestock, home medical equipment, or less mobile residents are involved. Therefore, planning ahead could reduce one’s anxiety during a stressful situation.

GO!

When instructed to do so, be willing to move to safety in a calm and organized manner. Follow the instructions of fire, law enforcement, and emergency officials. Once evacuated it could be a few hours, or several days before it’s safe to return. Therefore, it is important that you take all that you may need, including prescription medications or medical supplies with you upon evacuation. Let family or friends who are not in the threat area know when you have arrived at a safe location.

Resources

More information on being “Ready, Set, Go” for wildfires can be found in the Kansas Wildland Fire Action Guide available at many County Extension offices, or can be downloaded from the Kansas Forest Service (http://www.kansasforests.org/fire_management/fire_docs/ReadySetGoGuide.pdf) or the Office of the State Fire Marshal (<http://firemarshal.ks.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/ready-set-go-wildland-fire-action-guide.pdf>) webpages.

For more information on long-term planning and protection against wildfires contact your local fire department. Information also is available on the Web at <http://www.firewise.org/>.

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Kansas Citizen Corps Annual Report 2017

By: Bob Stamey, Kansas Citizen Corps, Kansas Division of Emergency Management

The Kansas Citizen Corps program, composed of volunteer teams of Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Fire Corps, Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), and USA On Watch continue to provide Kansas citizens with information, skills, training, resources, and support.

Each group is supported by local emergency response units including local fire departments, law enforcement departments, local health departments (supported by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment), and County/City emergency management offices (supported by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management).

One way to understand the impact a Citizen Corps team has on its community is to examine a single team's activities and how they help the community. A snap-shot of the Shawnee County Medical Reserve Corps Team shows a total of 26 outreach activities during the past year. A sample of these activities include the County Fair, back-to-school programs, Diabetes Heath Fair, Farm and Home Show, and a Safe Kids project. These events involved 134 volunteer hours with an economic value to the county of over \$8,000.00.

Activities like those listed above are common throughout Citizen Corps teams in 62 Kansas Counties. They provide strong support for communities before, during, and after disasters.

Volunteer opportunities and training are open to everyone (some require age 18+). To learn more, contact your county Emergency Manager or Public Health Agency.



Shawnee County MRC assists at "Drug Take Back Day" 2018. A collaboration of many local clinical facilities that received expired drugs from the community for disposal.

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‘Train Today, Respond Tomorrow’ Pilot Program

By: Ingrid C. Garrison, DVM, MPH,
Vice-President, Kansas State Animal Response Team

The Kansas State Animal Response Team (KS SART) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and support of regional animal response teams. The regional teams are comprised of trained volunteers dedicated to providing temporary shelter and care for pets displaced by a disaster. KS SART and affiliated regional animal response teams work together as the Animal Response Team Coalition of Kansas.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Animal Response Teams in Kansas. All volunteers, regardless of the role they play, are required to complete standard training requirements before they are eligible to respond to a disaster. These requirements, at this time, include; FEMA ICS 100, 200, 700, basic animal and human first aid, and psychological first aid. These requirements can be challenging for volunteers to meet due to time, logistical and financial constraints. In 2017, KS SART launched a pilot program, ‘Train Today, Respond Tomorrow’ (TTRT). This program was based on the American Red Cross ‘Zero to Hero’ disaster volunteer training. Animal Response Team volunteers were able to receive all required training, plus an animal disaster shelter course, in one weekend for only \$30.00! This pilot program was successful; the State of Kansas now has 150 new responder volunteers! KS SART plans to host additional ‘Train Today, Respond Tomorrow’ workshops in 2017.

This program is only one of numerous accomplishments by KS SART in 2017.

We encourage you to contact your Regional Animal Response Team to foster



communication, understand their capabilities, and to include them in future planning and exercises. More information about KS SART, including regional team contacts, can be found on our website; <https://kssart.org/>.

Prepare for the Unexpected

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

Personal preparedness is a vital step in reducing the overall impact of a disaster or emergency. Being prepared includes at minimum:

- Having adequate insurance coverage;
- Build a Kit-Having items on hand to make your household self-sustaining for 72 hours;
- Have a Plan-for what to do during a disaster or emergency;
- Be Informed-Have a method to receive important messages and alerts;
- Get trained-Seek training in lifesaving skills.

Many disasters and emergencies do *not* qualify for federal assistance in the form of grants or loans. This means that having adequate insurance coverage on your home, personal property, and vehicles is vital to help you recover when the unexpected occurs.

Preparedness Tip #1: Be Insured!

Make sure you have the coverage that you need to rebuild your home, replace personal property, and repair or replace your car if needed. Talk with your insurance agent and make sure that you understand your

An important first step in personal preparedness is to build a disaster kit. Create a kit with items to help your household be self-sustaining for at least 72 hours. Include food and water in your kit for all family members, including pets. In addition to food and water, make sure that you work to include items in your kit such as a first aid kit and medical supplies, change of clothes, blankets/sleeping bag, and supplies in case of power outage. Flashlights and batteries are always a must, but think outside of the box with your power outage preparedness. Solar lights can make a great, affordable addition to any kit!

In Kansas, another important step to take in ensuring that your family is prepared for a disaster is to have a plan and practice your plan. Identify a shelter location in your home in case of severe weather.



Managing the Risk 2017

Prepare for the Unexpected Cont.

Preparedness Tip #2: Build a Disaster Kit

- Keep in mind that food may need to be prepared without electricity and consider foods that may not need to be cooked or invest in a camp stove or similar item.
- Make sure that if you include canned goods in your kit that you purchase pop top cans or have a can opener available for use.
- Add comfort foods, such as candy, to help in stressful situations.
- Store enough water for at least one gallon of water per person and pet in your household per day.
- Make sure that you rotate your food and water into your regular use to avoid waste and check expiration dates when you change your clocks for daylight savings time to avoid expired food.

Discuss how you will evacuate your home if needed. Talk with your family about how you will reconnect after a disaster of emergency. Conduct fire and tornado drills with your family! These steps can save valuable time during a real event!

In Kansas we must plan and practice seeking shelter during a storm. Keep blankets, sturdy shoes, and helmets in the location for extra protection. Holding drills with your household members can also help ensure that everyone knows where to go and what to do in a situation that requires you to seek shelter.

Another great step in being prepared for the unexpected is to have a plan to stay alert and aware of weather in your area. Sign up for local alerts via phone call or text, and purchase a NOAA all-hazards radio with SAME technology.

Preparedness Tip #3: Lighting

Solar powered lights can be very inexpensive and easy to add to your disaster kit. Don't forget to keep them charged and if you need them just place them inside of a glass and move them about your home as needed and re-charge the next morning.

Lastly, get trained in lifesaving skills such as CPR and first aid! You never know when you may need these skills-you could save a life!

Preparedness can seem overwhelming! Work at a pace and budget that you are comfortable with and prepare your family for the unexpected. Check over your insurance, build a disaster kid, have a plan, practice your plan, stay informed, and get trained.

Public Assistance Program

By: Christina J. Flyntz,
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 non-profit agencies for emergencies declared for by the President of the United States. 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. 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 non-profit organizations to pre-disaster condition. 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 non-federal share, up to 25 percent, is allocated to applicants.

The state of Kansas had two Federally declared disasters and seven Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs) in 2017. As of Oct. 20, 2017, a total of \$536,797,128.82 has been obligated for Disasters #1741 through #4319.

In February of 2017, a federal disaster was declared for 20 winter storm ravaged counties due to heavy ice accumulation. A total of 60 applicants requested Public Assistance for an estimated \$11.6 million. Counties affected included Barton, Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Ellsworth, Ford, Hodgeman, Jewell, Kiowa, Meade, Ness, Pawnee, Pratt, Rice, Rush, Russell, Seward, Sheridan, Stafford and Trego counties.

On June 16th, 2017 the President declared a major disaster in the State of Kansas based on a severe winter storm, snowstorm and straight-line winds and flooding which occurred between April 28, 2017 through May 3, 2017 for an estimated total of over \$53,000,000. The following counties requested assistance for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities: Cherokee, Cheyenne, Crawford, Decatur, Finney, Gove, Graham, Grant, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell, Kearny, Lane, Logan, Morton, Neosho, Norton, Rawlins, Scott, Seward, Sheridan, Sherman, Stanton, Stevens, Thomas, Wallace and Wichita counties.

Additionally, due to record or near-record snowfalls, Greeley, Hamilton, Lane, Logan, Morton, Scott, Thomas and Wallace Counties were eligible for Federal Snow Assistance. Several Non-Profit Utility companies were also included in this grant application for damage done to utility lines in this area.

Public Assistance Program Cont.

On March 6, 2017, seven Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Declarations were made for wildfires occurring in eight Kansas Counties: Comanche, Rooks, Ness, Ford, Ellsworth, Lincoln, Russell, Clark and Reno. The estimated total for these seven projects is \$4.2 million.

On November 7, 2017, a federal disaster was declared for two counties in Kansas for severe storms, straight-line winds and flooding, which occurred between July 22, 2017 and July 27, 2017. The counties affected were Johnson and Wyandotte counties and damages totaled nearly \$6,000,000.00.

Prepare your Pets for Disasters and Emergencies

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

When preparing for a disaster or emergency it is important to prepare your whole family. Pets are part of the family, don't forget your pet when working to achieve personal preparedness. Having a prepared pet increases a family's preparedness and safety.

Past disasters have shown that many individuals will not evacuate if they do not have plans for their pet. This challenge places human lives in danger, in addition to the animal's life. Planning for pets is a simple addition to any personal preparedness plan. Pets need to have a disaster kit, just like we do! Create a disaster kit for your pet with enough food, water, and other supplies to last your pet for 72 hours and add items needed specifically to fit your pet's needs.

Important items to include in your pet's kit are:

- Food that the animal is accustomed to in a sealed, portable container;
- Water and food bowl (collapsible bowls are great to save space);
- Collar or harness and leash (combos can make movement faster);
- Veterinary records;
- Any medications or support items needed by your pet.

Other great additions include:

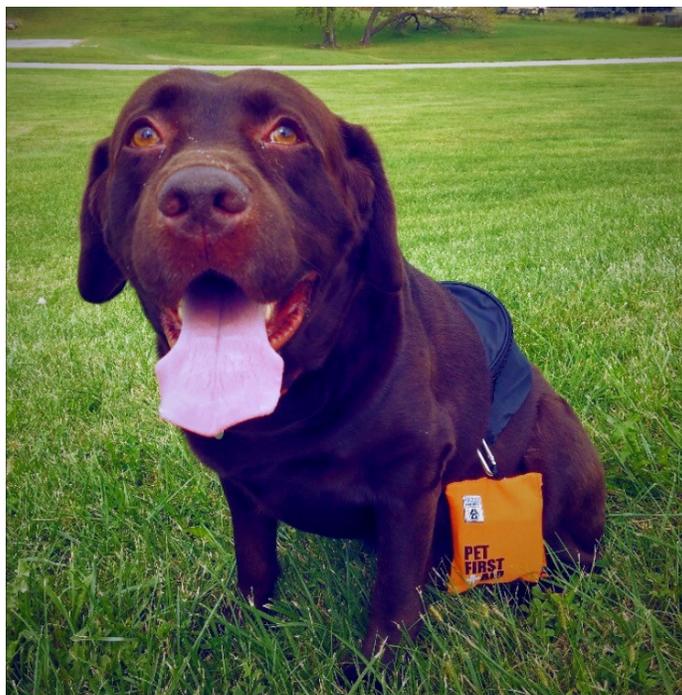
- A crate or carrier;
- Blanket or bedding;
- Toys;
- First-aid kit;
- Plastic bags;
- Litter box and litter

And

- Treats!

It is also a great idea to include a picture of you with your dog in case of separation.

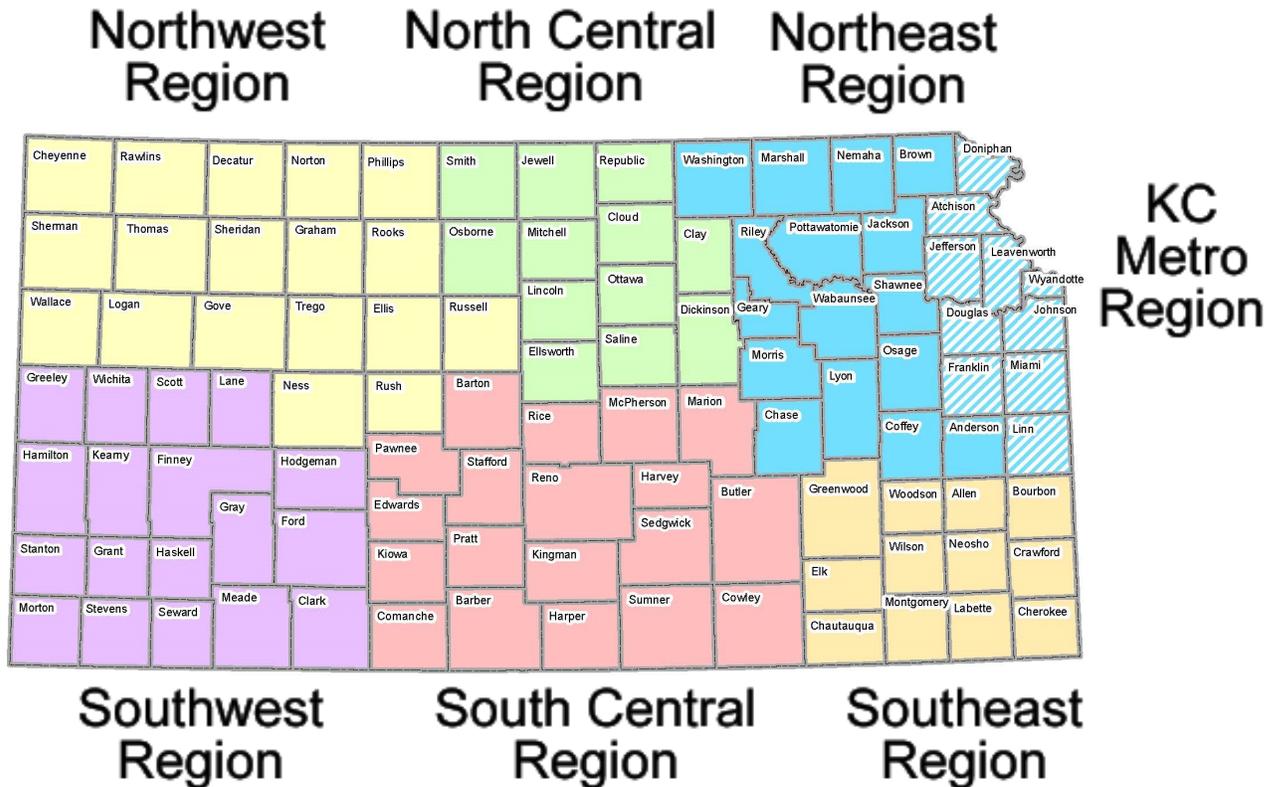
When working on your family's disaster plan include your pet in planning. Think about how you will shelter with your pet or evacuate with your pet and plan in advance. Have a plan in place in case you are not with your pet when a disaster happens and share your plan with your family. Plan today, and plan for the whole family!



*Featuring Tucker
(a very good boy modeling his pet first aid kit.)*

Managing the Risk 2017

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