



Kingman County Commission

Fred Foley, County Commissioner District #1
Carol F. Voran, County Commissioner District #2
John Steffen, County Commissioner District #3

Kingman County Courthouse, 130 N. Spruce, Kingman KS 67068
Office of the County Clerk: Phone: 620-532-2521 / Fax: 620-532-5082

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 16, 2014

For more information, contact Nancy D. Borst, 620-532-2037 / nborst@kingmancoks.com

Kingman County adopts new regional hazard mitigation plan

Kingman County Commissioners voted at their June 16 meeting to adopt a new regional multi-hazard mitigation plan that encompasses a total of 11 south central Kansas counties.

The purpose of the South-Central Kansas (Region G) plan is to provide actions to eliminate or reduce risk to people and property from natural and manmade hazards. Among natural hazards the plan addresses are flooding, tornado, windstorm, winter storm, wildfire, hailstorm and extreme temperatures. Other hazards include utility infrastructure/failure, hazardous materials and major disease outbreak. The new plan replaced one adopted in March 2010.

Participating in and adopting the plan also helps the county be eligible for federal disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Fred Simon, the county's emergency management director, told commissioners such assistance helps "break the cycle" of repeated loss.

"Say you have a road that repeatedly floods," he said. "You go in and add a box culvert, elevate the road bed and it doesn't happen again."

Even though the plan is regional, Kingman County and other local jurisdictions were able to identify hazards in their areas and specify plans to mitigate them. Examples of local needs include providing mobile generators for water/wastewater operations and identifying more community shelters/safe rooms.

Other jurisdictions that participated in the plan are the cities of Cunningham, Kingman, Nashville, Norwich, Penalosa, Spivey and Zenda; St. Patrick Catholic School; Kingman-Norwich USD 331; Cunningham USD 332; Wheatlands Health Care Center; Kingman Community Hospital; several Rural Electric Cooperatives; and the following townships: Allen, Bennett, Canton, Chikaskia, Dresden, Eureka, Evan, Galesburg, Hoosier, Kingman, Peters, Richland, Rural, Union, Valley, Vinita and White.

Simon will work with each of these entities in the coming weeks to document formal adoption of the new plan and thus help ensure eligibility for federal disaster funding.

"If they don't have one (a mitigation plan), it hurts them when they go to apply for a grant," he said.

The plan was developed in coordination with FEMA Region VII and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. Other counties in Homeland Security Region G are Butler, Cowley, Harper, Harvey, Marion, McPherson, Reno, Rice, Sedgwick and Sumner. Action items for local jurisdictions are posted on the Emergency Management page of the Kingman County website, kingmancoks.com.

###