



## Kingman County Commission

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – Sept. 23, 2013

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### **Cunningham hosts specialized fire training**

Forty-one people representing 12 agencies attended a specialized fire training event Sept. 18 at the Cunningham Community Center. The class was hosted by the Cunningham Fire Department and is part of the mobile fire academy training offered by the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute.

The class included information on urban search & rescue, and building marking during a disaster. It was led by Capt. Tony Tracy of the Sedgwick County Fire Department. Tracy also is a member of the South Central Heavy Rescue Regional Response Team, which covers a 19-county area that includes Kingman County.

Tracy explained the resources the Regional Response Team could provide as well as how and where to access other state resources.

The class reviewed the types of building collapses and how to identify them. Participants also learned what information should be shared with team members responding to collapsed buildings and structures.

The class also included information on how to handle mass building and victim events, such as a tornado or earthquake. Members attending were shown how to do a rapid evaluation of buildings and what universal markings to use. Such markings indicate whether a building has been checked, if and where it is safe to enter, whether more work needs to be done before entering, whether there are trapped victims or whether any hazards are present.

The Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute logs more than 185,000 miles in the state each year traveling to serve local fire departments. The institute trains a number equal to approximately 55 percent of the Kansas fire service every year.

Fred Simon, director of Kingman County Emergency Management, was among those attending the training. He thanked Cunningham for bringing the class to the area.

“It was good to see this many area departments represented at this training,” Simon said. “These are the departments who will be working together should we be unfortunate enough to have a large scale disaster like a tornado occur in Kingman County. Having responders familiar with the universal markings that are used during these events will save time, and maybe lives, should such an event occur locally.”

Other agencies represented at the event were Norwich, Zenda, Kingman, Pratt, Preston and Reno County #7 (Turon) fire departments; Kingman and Cunningham 911; Cunningham and Pratt EMS, and Kingman Rescue.

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