



Kingman County Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Sept. 29, 2016

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Kingman County Emergency Manager nominated for award



Fred Simon, Kingman County’s Emergency Manager, recently was nominated for the Kansas Emergency Management Association’s Emergency Management Professional of the Year award. KEMA presented the award at its September conference in Junction City.

In nominating him, the Kingman County Commission noted Simon’s work in 2016 when someone set a stripped, stolen vehicle ablaze and shoved it off a Kingman County bridge, which in turn set the bridge on fire.

“Simon responded to the scene of the bridge fire, bringing booms to deploy and capture creosote leaking into the river,” the nomination stated.

The nomination also noted Simon’s efforts to obtain “Turn Around Don’t Drown” signs for the county from the National Weather Service.

Simon spearheaded the county effort that created a winning application, one of only two in Kansas.

“These two incidents reflect the highs and lows of emergency management,” the nomination noted. “Fred is well-respected by his county colleagues because he is always ready to assist in times of need. ‘What do you need?’ and ‘How can I help?’ are two of his favorite sayings.”

Simon is a retired captain with the Sedgwick County Fire Department and brings a wealth of skills and knowledge on the fire service side of planning and response. He leads the county’s annual planning of exercises and is the information officer for the Local Emergency Planning Committee. He has been the county’s emergency manager since December 2008.

His work also includes assisting other counties with their disaster exercises; past vice chair of the South Central Kansas Region, Regional Homeland Security Council and current county representative to that organization; lead for several projects, two of which acquired cattle equipment and a portable light tower for the county.

“Kingman County is a safer county because of Fred Simon,” noted the nomination.

Kingman County Sheriff Randy Hill, also a KEMA member, submitted the nomination. Simon did not win the award but his nomination was recognized at the conference of his peers. Ryan Murray of Cheyenne/Sherman/Rawlins counties won the award this year.

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