



**to Be Prepared
in Douglas County,
Kansas**

Douglas County Public
Information Center (DCPIC)





The Douglas County Public Information Center (DCPIC)

There's something new at the Lawrence Public Library to help you and your family be better prepared for and informed about potential and actual public health threats, disasters and emergencies in Douglas County. The library is expanding its role as an information center for the public before, during and after catastrophic events by establishing the Douglas County Public Information Center (DCPIC).

The DCPIC is the "HOW" in being better prepared.

"H" stands for the hotline. The Douglas County Public Information Hotline is a new library service that can be activated during potential and actual health threats, disasters or emergency events in Douglas County.

"O" is for outreach preparedness programs through the library for organizations that serve vulnerable populations, including older adults and people with disabilities, and for general preparedness resources.

"W" is for a website called Together Prepared, which provides timely updates and preparedness information that is useful for the general public and vulnerable populations.

These efforts are in partnership with Douglas County Emergency Management, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, the Research and Training Center on Independent Living at the University of Kansas, and the Together Prepared coalition.

H: Hotline

The library is a trusted source of information, education and empowerment for local citizens. As part of the DCPIC, it has established the Douglas County Public Information Hotline. The hotline can be activated by emergency management in response to potential or actual public health threats, disasters or emergencies in Douglas County. Information will be available in various formats to assist the public in being better prepared or informed.

When the hotline is activated, you will be greeted by a recorded message that will provide updated information on the current situation and whether the hotline is being answered by live operators.

- **During non-crisis events**, you will be referred to the Together Prepared website for the latest public information.
- A live operator will only be available **during designated public health threats, disasters or emergencies**.

The Hotline is expected to be ready in the spring of 2011. It is for non-medical, non-emergency informational calls. It is not intended to be a replacement for emergency 911 calls.

O: Outreach

The library also has a proud tradition of reaching out to the community by providing resources outside of the library building itself. In 2010, the library began piloting a new outreach program that assists agencies, organizations and



residences that serve vulnerable populations in becoming better prepared for disasters and emergencies.

Whether the need is to review existing plans, assist in initial planning or educate staff, residents and their families, the library's mobile preparedness outreach program addresses the unique needs of each site.

W: Website

The website Together Prepared provides updated preparedness information every month for the general public and vulnerable populations. It also maintains the hotline page when the hotline is activated to give information out during a disaster. The website was developed in conjunction with the health department and a community coalition of agencies that serve vulnerable populations called Together Prepared.

Preparedness Tips

Preparedness doesn't just happen. With the right resources, though, you can take action to prepare for yourself and your family.

Douglas County is subject to a number of potential hazards, both natural and man-made. While we cannot control natural disasters, emergencies or attacks, we can be prepared, and we can protect ourselves and our families. Proper planning and preparation before disaster strikes will help keep you and your family safe, and for vulnerable populations, it may also assist with staying independent.

There are three simple ways to begin being more prepared: **Make a plan, have a kit, and stay informed.**

A plan of action, or having an emergency plan, always helps in a difficult situation and could help responders provide additional assistance to you and your loved ones. Here are some tips for creating your preparedness plan.

- Know which hazards are common in Douglas County.
- Discuss the plan with your family and practice it often to become familiar with it. Make adjustments for possible daytime (school/work) or nighttime activities.

Include your pets in your plan.

- Post emergency telephone numbers near the home telephone and in all cell phones and address books.

In addition to an emergency plan, assemble an **emergency supply kit**. Place it in an easy-to-access location. Make sure to include food, water (1 gallon per person, per day) and supplies for each family member that can last for up to 72 hours. See online resources listed on the back page.

You can also better prepare yourself by **staying informed** before, during, and after an emergency/disaster. Make sure to:

- Become better informed about various preparedness resources in Douglas County, and how they can help you and your family.
- Get involved with neighborhood, work or residential preparedness programs.
- If you can volunteer with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), American Red Cross, or Medical Reserve Corps in Douglas County.

Douglas County Public Information Hotline (IH)

785-856-5777

(available spring 2011)

Together Prepared- DCPIC Website

www.togetherprepared.org



For more information

To learn more about the outreach programs or the hotline contact:

Pattie Johnston, Outreach Services

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707 Vermont Street

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<http://douglascountyks.redcross.org>

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Contacts for Local Volunteering

Douglas County CERT

Douglas County Emergency Management

- (785) 832-5259
- http://www.douglas-county.com/depts/em/em_home.aspx

American Red Cross - Douglas County Chapter

Douglas County Chapter

- (785) 843-3550
- <http://douglascountyks.redcross.org/>

Douglas County Medical Reserve Corps

Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

- (785) 843-3060 ext. 357
- <http://www.ldhealth.org/medicalreservecorps.php>

Online Preparedness Resources

All-hazards planning for Douglas County

- http://www.douglas-county.com/depts/em/em_disasterinfo.aspx

Preparedness planning for different types of disasters

- <http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/index.html>

Family preparedness planning

- <http://extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPub.aspx?P=EMW1011>

Preparedness by topic and resources for vulnerable populations

- <http://www.togetherprepared.org>

Preparedness for older adults

- http://www.redcross.org/museum/prepare_org/seniors/srsforsrs.htm

Animal preparedness

- <http://www.artc.org/>

Seasonal and pandemic flu preparedness with checklists for all-hazards preparedness kits, supplies and important documents, including checklists for people with disabilities

- <http://disabilityprepared.ku.edu/files/preparedlifestyle2010.pdf>

Fire preparedness and people with disabilities

- <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/disability/>

Neighborhood preparedness

- <http://www.rtcil.org/documents/ReadyNeighborhood.pdf>

Workplace preparedness

- <http://askjan.org/media/emergency.html>

Best practices for meeting needs of persons with disabilities

- <http://www.disabilityprepared.ku.edu>



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