



KOIN Connection

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 1 CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES WINTER 2017

KOIN/KFNC ITV Workshop Recap—Nov. 1, 2016

The 2016 annual Kentucky Outreach and Information Network/Functional Needs Collaborative (KOIN/KFNC) Interactive Television (ITV) workshop was held on Nov. 1, 2016.

There were 39 local health department ITV sites that participated with a total of 76 workshop participants.

The ITV format allowed KOIN/KFNC members located throughout the state to meet regionally at their local health departments to utilize the ITV technology and reduce the need to travel long distances for the

annual meeting. It also allowed them to become better acquainted and form working relationships in the event they need to work together when disasters strike.

The workshop featured presentations on: Active Shooter/Active Aggressor Planning and Awareness; Pet and Animal Emergency Planning; Vulnerable Populations and Climate-Related Health Impacts; Zika Virus Update; and an update on the KOIN and KFNC.

Workshop presentation slides

and a taping of the entire workshop is available at <http://healthalerts.ky.gov/koin/Pages/Workshops.aspx>

Thanks to all that participated in the 2016 KOIN/KFNC workshop!

Please contact Barbara Fox (BarbaraJ.Fox@ky.gov) at (502) 564-6786, ext. 3102 for any questions or comments regarding the workshop.

Get Real-Time Alerts This Winter

One in three people don't know how to get real-time alerts and warnings ahead of a winter storm, according to the FEMA 2015 National Survey.

Review these tips and make sure you're alerted to critical information as soon as possible so you can take action to be safe:

- Confirm your mobile device can receive wireless emergency alerts.
- Sign up for text and/or email alerts from your local jurisdiction.
- Consider purchasing a NOAA weather radio.
- If you don't have a land-

line, check to see if your jurisdiction has options for Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and mobile phones to be connected to Enhanced Telephone Notification (ETN) systems such as Reverse 911®.

- Download relevant hazard alerts and warnings apps like the FEMA App.
- Create a list of all the alert systems available to you, and make sure everyone in

the household receives the alerts as part of your household communication system.

While your smartphone can connect you to these apps, it's still dependent upon a battery for functionality. It's wise to invest in portable solar chargers, extra batteries and other power supply alternatives to keep your phone charged and ready to use in the event of power failures and extended outages.

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What Do Winter Weather Watches & Warnings Mean?

Do you know the difference between a storm watch, warning or advisory? It can mean all the difference in the time you have to prepare for the storm with at least three days of food, water and emergency supplies to stay at home and keep off the roads.

The National Weather Service (NWS) issues **watches, warnings and advisories** for all winter weather hazards. Here's what they mean and what to do. Use the information below to make an informed decision on your risk and what actions to take.

- **Winter Storm Watch: Be Prepared.** A watch means that severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow or sleet or an ice storm, may affect your area, but where, when and how much is still uncertain. The National Weather Service issues a watch to provide 12- to 36-hour notice of possible severe winter weather. A watch is intended to provide enough lead time for you to prepare.
- **Winter Storm Warning: Take Action!** The National Weather Service issues a warning when its scientists forecast 4 or more inches of snow or sleet in the next 12 hours, six or more inches in 24 hours, or quarter of an inch or more of ice accumulation. Travel will become difficult or impossible in some situations. Delay your travel plans until conditions improve.
- **Winter Weather Advisory: Be Aware.** An advisory informs you that winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences that may be hazardous. If you exercise caution, advisory situations shouldn't become life-threatening.
- **Blizzard Warning** lets you know that snow and strong winds will combine to produce a blinding snow (near zero visibility), deep drifts, and life-threatening wind chill.

Remember to listen to your local officials' recommendations and to a NOAA Weather Radio, which broadcasts alerts and warnings directly from the National Weather Service. Learn more by visiting the **NWS Winter Storm Safety** page at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/>.

Winter Storm Preparedness

Since severe winter weather can strike anytime and anywhere during the winter months, it is critical that people remain prepared. Here are some tips to keep you safe:

Before Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

Develop a family disaster plan or modify an existing plan to account for winter weather related hazards. Understand the winter weather-related risks in your area; different areas have different risks associated with winter storms.

Create an emergency supply kit that includes a three-day supply of food and water, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio and extra flashlights and batteries. Thoroughly check and update your family's emergency supply kit and add the following supplies in preparation for winter weather:

- Rock salt to melt ice on walkways;
- Sand to improve traction;
- Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment;
- Adequate clothing and blankets available to help keep you warm.

Ensure your family preparedness plan and contacts are up to date and exercise your plan. Learn about the emergency plans that have been established in your area by your state and local government, and ensure your home and car are prepared for the winter weather.

In the Aftermath of Winter Storms

When winter storms hit, the first responders are local emergency and public works personnel, volunteers, humanitarian organizations, and numerous private interest groups. This collection of agencies helps provide emergency assistance required to protect

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the public's health and safety to meet immediate needs. FEMA has pre-staged emergency commodities across the United States should they be needed to support state and local emergency response operations.

Residents should follow the instructions of state, local and tribal officials and listen to local radio or TV stations for updated emergency information. If you are told to stay off the roads, stay home, and when it is safe, check on your neighbors or friends nearby who may need assistance or extra support. Older adults and individuals who are dependent on life-sustaining medical equipment or assistive devices such as a ventilator or mobility devices, may need additional support in areas that have lost power.

For more information and winter safety tips, please visit <https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather> to find out how you can prepare your family for winter storms and other disasters.

Free KOIN Materials Available

There are plenty of free KOIN materials available to members by simply requesting them. If you are interested in obtaining KOIN materials, please contact Barbara Fox, KOIN Coordinator, at BarbaraJ.Fox@ky.gov or call (502) 564-6786, ext. 3102. When requesting materials, please provide the name of the material(s), the quantity requested and a mailing address.

Free Materials Available:

- Folding Pandemic Flu Brochure (English and Spanish versions available)
- Be Safe. Be Prepared. Children's Emergency Preparedness Coloring Book
- Emergency Preparedness Refrigerator Magnet (English, Spanish and Braille versions available)
- Updated KOIN Training Video DVD with Accompanying User's Manual
- Kentucky Emergency Guide Folding Pocket Card
- Updated Kentucky Department for Public Health Brochure with Pictograms (English and Spanish versions available)

All requests for materials are promptly mailed out so please request your KOIN materials today.

If you have any suggestions for future KOIN materials related to public health preparedness, please contact Barbara Fox.

HELPFUL EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO:

How to Get Help/Medical Emergency - Dial 911

Poison Control Hotline - 800-222-1222

Disease Reporting Hotline - 800-973-7678

**Division of Emergency Management -
800-255-2587 or 502-607-1611**

KY Dept. for Public Health - 502-564-3970

**Cabinet for Health and Family Services Office of
Communications - 502-564-6786**

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We're on the Web!
<http://healthalerts.ky.gov/KOIN>