



KOIN Connection

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2 CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES SUMMER 2008

Fall 2008 KOIN Workshops Planned

Time has slipped away since our last newsletter this past winter. We have been busy planning for the annual fall workshops to be held September 9-12, 2008. This year's fall workshop locations include:

- Sept. 9 - **Elizabethtown**
(Lincoln Trail District Health Dept., 108 New Glendale Road, Room B)
- Sept. 10 - **Bowling Green**
(Western Kentucky Univer-

sity Downing University Center, Room 349)

- Sept. 11 - **Lexington**
(Lexington Public Library, 140 E. Main St., Room A)
- Sept. 12 - **Louisville**
(University of Louisville Shelby Campus, Founders Union Bldg., Room 218A)

All workshops will be held from 1-4 p.m.

This year's workshops will include a new, discussion-based format in which participants will work through an emergency scenario and practice responding to a KOIN alert.

An invitation to the workshops will be mailed to you shortly.

We hope to see you at one of the fall workshops!

Be Prepared for Transition to Digital Television

Please mark the date of **February 17, 2009** for when local over-the-air full-power TV broadcasts will transition from analog to digital in the U.S. This transition to digital TV (DTV) will affect those who watch free over-the-air television (through a rooftop antenna or "rabbit ears").

Why Is The Switch To DTV Taking Place?

Federal law requires this switch to occur, which will free up frequencies for police, fire and emergency rescue communications, allowing broadcasters to offer programming with better picture and sound quality, provide more programming choices and allow for commercial advanced wireless services.

What Should I Do To Be Ready?

There are **three** choices you

can select from:

1. **Connect your analog TV to a digital-to-analog converter box.** Digital-to-analog converter boxes are currently available in stores and cost \$40-\$70. To help consumers with the cost of the boxes, the U.S. Government is offering two \$40 coupons per household. For more information on the coupons, visit www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-888-388-2009 (voice) or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY). Current broadcast antennas

should work for receiving digital broadcasts.

2. **Buy a digital TV with a built-in digital tuner.** You don't have to buy a High Definition TV (HDTV) to enjoy digital broadcast television. Plus, your current broadcast antenna should work for digital broadcasts.
3. **Subscribe to a paid TV service.** If you subscribe to a paid service such as cable or satellite TV, contact your provider to see if you may

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Transition to Digital TV (continued)

need additional equipment. Remember that you will need a digital-to-analog converter box for any analog TV in your home not connected to your paid TV service.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has contacted the

KOIN and requested that the network assist with spreading the word about the transition to DTV to those Kentucky residents we serve, including low-income, seniors, people with disabilities, rural citizens, multilingual citizens and minority populations.

For a listing of DTV publications such as fact sheets and instructions available in several different languages, go to <http://www.dtv.gov/publications.html>.

Please note that coupons expire 90 days after they are mailed to you so it is important that you redeem them in a timely fashion.

Tips for First Responders on Interacting with the Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Contributed by Elden May, Information Office Supervisor, Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Being a first responder in a crisis is, by nature, a highly stressful situation. The responders who can most quickly gain control of a situation are those who can bring calm to the sea of calamity. Often this means cutting across many different barriers that can prove harmful to delivering a clear, concise message, which often can mean the difference between life and death.

This is especially true when first responders encounter deaf or hard of hearing citizens in a crisis. Delivering important information in a simple, concise way is often the only effective way these citizens will receive this vital message. Unlike radio and television warnings, such messages have proven difficult or misleading to the deaf and hard of hearing population.

Delivering the message clearly to deaf and hard of hearing people is not difficult if responders remember to follow a few simple guidelines. Among these are:

- Tap the person on the shoulder/arm or wave to get their attention (with deaf-blind, lay hand on individual until they face you).
- Face the person directly (avoid having bright light at your back and any background noise if possible).
- Speak slowly and clearly, not loudly.

- Keep a pen and note pad available.
- Avoid covering your mouth and face (facial covering or apparatus of any kind will interfere with lip reading ability of deaf and hard of hearing people).
- Repeat what you said, keeping it as concise as possible.
- Rephrase the word, sentence or question.
- Use appropriate facial expression.
- Give visual cues or gestures.
- Write notes (use black markers with deaf-blind) or use palm print.
- Use gestures, sign language, finger spelling or mime.
- Ask individual which mode of communication they prefer (if they inform you on how you can communicate with them effectively, follow their request).
- Do not assume that the person understands you – follow your intuition.
- Just because they can speak clearly does not mean they can hear.

Above all else, please do not get frustrated. If someone is having trouble understanding, remember to keep the message as simple as possible and rephrase if it helps. First responders are the best, and often only resource for deaf and hard of hearing people to rely on in the event of an emergency.

The service responders provide is greatly

appreciated by the deaf and hard of hearing community and, though it may take place in a way that is unusual to first responders, both parties require effective communication and will work together to make sure it occurs.



KOIN Member Preparedness Tips

1. If you don't have an email address for yourself or your organization, please make it a priority to establish one because it can be useful for emergency purposes. Many are available online free of charge (Gmail.com, Yahoo.com, Hotmail.com).
2. Keep two copies of your contact lists in separate locations (in car, house or at work for example) for easy access.
3. Be sure to keep all contact information updated for both your organization's contact list and your information with KOIN.

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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**

We're on the Web!
**[www.chfs.ky.gov/dph/epi/
preparedness/KOIN.htm](http://www.chfs.ky.gov/dph/epi/preparedness/KOIN.htm)**

Helpful Preparedness Resources for KOIN Members!

- **Kentucky Preparedness for Aging e-Newsletter** - <http://cwte.louisville.edu/ovar/emergency/2nd/partnership.htm>
- **National Resource Center on Advancing Emergency Preparedness for Culturally Diverse Communities** - www.diversitypreparedness.org (Web site has a link to our KOIN network)
- **Community Emergency Preparedness Information Network** - www.cepintdi.org

Online Training Course - Assisting People with Disabilities During Disasters

Ready, Willing & Able is providing a free, professional, 2-hour introductory online training course that will allow participants to become familiar with the needs of persons with disabilities during a disaster. The course is primarily designed for public health and hospital staff, health professionals, disaster preparedness managers, emergency response workers and personnel working with people with disabilities.

To learn more and register for the training, visit **www.train.org**.