



# KOIN Connection

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1 CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES WINTER 2011

## Carbon Monoxide is a Silent and Deadly Killer

The arrival of cold weather often signals an increase in the danger of accidental carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from improper use of alternative heating sources. These devices include generators, kerosene heaters and charcoal or gas grills that are often used during power outages during winter months. They can cause a build-up of carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, fatigue, dizziness, impaired vision, drowsiness, nausea,

vomiting, chest pain, loss of coordination and confusion. Seek medical attention immediately if you suspect you are experiencing these symptoms.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS)/ Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) has performed extensive research with pictograms for carbon monoxide poisoning and has utilized the KOIN for focus group testing of the pictograms to ensure their ability to properly convey the messages to vulnerable population

groups such as the limited-English proficiency (LEP) populations.

The final product of this research is the carbon monoxide pictogram fact sheet (available in English and Spanish) that describes the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning and steps to take to avoid accidental poisoning.

The fact sheet is located at <http://healthalerts.ky.gov/Pages/WinterSafety.aspx>.

## Upcoming KOIN Workshops for 2011

We are busy preparing for the annual 2011 KOIN workshops and hope all KOIN members can attend and participate in some fashion this year. This year the KOIN will be having two workshops:

**April 27, 2011, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**—Face-to-face workshop at Berry Hill Mansion, Frankfort.

**April 28, 2011, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.**—Interactive television (ITV) session workshop. This ITV will be conducted at the Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) Conference Suite C, but will be broadcasted to all local health departments that have signed up to participate. The Kentucky DPH Health

Distance Learning Network (KENNECT) TRAIN Course ID # is 1025686.

The ITV format will allow KOIN 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 will also allow them to become better acquainted to form working relationships in the

event they need to work together when disasters strike.

Workshop invitations will be sent to all current KOIN members in advance.

If you require any special accommodations or need a sign language interpreter, please contact Barbara Fox by April 1, 2011 at BarbaraJ.Fox@ky.gov or (502) 564-6786 Ext. 3102 .

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# Phone Apps Helpful for Disaster Preparedness Efforts

The popularity of application software known as “apps” has soared over the past few years. This computer software is designed to help the user perform singular or multiple related specific tasks. The apps can be saved on the phone and quickly accessed by simply tapping the individual icons on the screen of the phone. There are a variety of different apps for different models of smart phones and the price for downloading varies from free of charge to several dollars each.

The following apps are related to personal preparedness and are not endorsed by CHFS, but are listed below for your informational purposes and are located on the Internet for downloading to your smart phone:

- Emergency Preparedness Checklist
- Pocket First Aid and CPR
- Close Call
- In Case of Emergency (ICE)
- 1st Response Be Prepared
- Glucose Buddy

There are several applications that the deaf/hard of hearing (HOH) population can utilize on smart phones. Since deaf/HOH consumers rely predominantly on data and text to communicate during an emergency and also use Internet Protocol (IP) base programs to communicate through videoconferencing, smart phones like the iPhone have been a welcome addition to the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) program. Many of their consumers have been using phones for all types of communication.

Several iPhone programs for disabled individuals can be found at <http://www.silvercross.com/blog/general/15-iphone-apps-for-the-disabled/>. The Text to Speech application (<http://text-to-speech.imtranslator.net/>) allows the user to type in a message and the phone will voice it for them. Consumers can use this application to communicate with first responders. It has also been used to order food at fast food restaurants so that the speech is understandable enough to communicate basic information.

The FaceTime application can be used for a variety of situations, such as making video phone calls to anyone with a compatible smart phone so you can see them calling an individual if they need to relay emergency information or to get assistance such as having them call 911 for an emergency and the friend would relay the information.

Thanks to KCDHH for contributing information to this article.

## **Disability Preparedness Website**

Information concerning preparedness efforts for the disabled can be found at [www.DisabilityPreparedness.gov](http://www.DisabilityPreparedness.gov).

This site contains valuable information that can assist individuals with disabilities prepare for emergencies before they occur.

Website topics include knowing your rights under the disability law, general disability preparedness information, developing an emergency plan, disability and disaster specific preparedness, assistive and personal communications technology for emergencies and work related preparedness.

The website is managed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities.

## 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](mailto: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
- KOIN ID Badges
- 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 us.

# Talking With a KOIN Member....Pat Seybold

Long standing KOIN member Pat Seybold found a way to combine her love of animals and her commitment to supporting those who have experienced a trauma by becoming certified with National Animal Assisted Crisis Response (NAACR). This national organization's mission is to provide stress relief and assist in the safe and effective emotional rescue, recovery and ongoing support of individuals, responders, emergency services and volunteer agencies that have been affected by crisis and disaster.

Pat and her canine, Lionel, were certified in 2007. The steps to certification include being a certified therapy dog team, extensive training and evaluation. Through NAACR, Pat and Lionel have been deployed two times, both were to Northern Illinois University following the shooting of five students on campus. The first deployment involved providing comfort to the students as they returned to class following a week long break. The second time was to attend the one year anniversary for the shooting. The students, facility and staff made a specific request to have NAACR dogs present for the anniversary because the dogs had had such an impact on the recovery process.

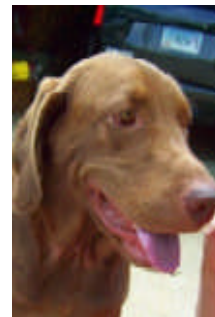
In 2010 the Kentucky Community Crisis Response Board (KCCRB) entered into an agreement with National Animal Assisted Crisis Response. The agreement allowed the canines who were certified by NAACR to respond to requests for KCCRB teams. On Sept. 12, 2010, KCCRB received a request for services from the Powell County Superintendent, Ms. Evelyn Neely. Ms. Neely stated that Ms. Lisa Watkins, a 25-year teacher at Powell County Middle school, was involved in a fatal motor vehicle collision on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010. On Monday, Sept. 13, 2010, the Kentucky Community Crisis Response Team (KCCRT), under the coordination of Deputy Director Tim Lucas, deployed a specialized strike team for KCCRT with their trained K9 partners consisting of Pat Seybold, her canine Lionel, two other dog/handler teams and a team leader.

These KCCRT members and their dogs have been trained and certified by both NAACR and KCCRB. The unique strike team along with fellow team members provided crisis counseling services to the faculty and students of the Powell County Middle School. Superintendent Neely expressed her appreciation and commented on how well the events of the day went, particularly the comfort that the dogs and KCCRT members brought to the children and school staff. Ms. Neely was very complimentary of the crisis counseling services provided by the crisis response team and noted that her expectations were far exceeded. The administration and faculty were so moved by the services provided by the KCCRT that they offered to sponsor the training for an additional crisis response dog to increase the number of trained members of the specialized strike team. In doing so, this would allow more schools and community members an opportunity to utilize their services.

Pat and Lionel also volunteer at Collins Lane Elementary School in Frankfort, spending time with students who read to Lionel. Pat and Lionel also volunteer with Hospice and attend local events where therapy dogs are requested.



Pat Seybold



Lionel

## About Pat

Pat enjoys gardening and hiking with her dogs in her spare time. She also spends time working with women at the Franklin County jail and also spends time working with youth in the local community.

## The KOIN Website Has Moved!

The KOIN website has moved to: <http://healthalerts.ky.gov/KOIN>. This new site is more user friendly and improved.

Please visit and update your bookmarks today!

## WANTED: INFORMATIVE TIPS AND IDEAS

The *KOIN Connection* newsletter is seeking information from KOIN members on ways to improve the newsletter. If you have any suggestions on topics for articles in future editions or if you would like to nominate someone to be featured in our future newsletters, please forward to [BarbaraJ.Fox@ky.gov](mailto:BarbaraJ.Fox@ky.gov).

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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!**

**<http://healthalerts.ky.gov/KOIN>**

***Please Remember.....***

The KOIN network is a two-way communication tool. When a KOIN message is sent out to KOIN members, we would like to hear back from you. During emergencies, resources and services may be unavailable to residents. While the KOIN cannot guarantee that these services will be restored quickly, the network would like to know your communities needs are being met, especially concerning the needs of vulnerable population groups. It only takes a few seconds to drop us a note. We'd be most appreciative if we'd hear back from you! It could result in a more productive emergency communications network.

