



Kenton County, Kentucky
Emergency Operations Plan
Supplement
Alerts and Warning
Procedures



Kenton County Homeland Security
Emergency Management

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KENTON COUNTY EOP SUPPORT PLAN

ALERTS AND WARNING PROCEDURES

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PUPOSE

This procedure is designed to provide for dissemination of information to government officials and the public of the prediction or occurrence of incidents which could result in loss of life, hardship, suffering or extensive property damage. This procedure is written to supplement the Kenton County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) by providing guidelines and procedures for issuing alerts and warnings.

SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Kenton County is subject to a variety of hazards including, but not limited to, tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, flash flooding, droughts, fires, hazardous materials incidents, landslides, transportation emergencies, and acts of terrorism.

Government officials, public safety personnel, and citizens of Kenton County have a legitimate need to be notified of these potential incidents and circumstances.

Kenton County Homeland Security Emergency Management is tasked with creating and managing a warning system that meets the needs of the County.

Kenton County must rely on a variety of local, state, and federal agencies to assist with providing timely and effective emergency alerts and warnings.

A warning lead time period will be available for some emergency situations, although the amount of lead-time will vary from hazard to hazard. Proper use of this warning period can save lives, reduce injuries and protect property.

24 HOUR WARNING POINT

The Kenton County Emergency Communications Center (KCECC), under the supervision of the KCECC Director, is the primary 24-hour Warning Point for all jurisdictions in Kenton County. The KCECC will attempt to provide factual and rapid alerting to key officials, local government agencies, and citizens of an impending incident which could result in possible loss of life, extreme hardship and suffering, or extensive property damage.

NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Several systems are available for KCECC and KCHSEM to provide alerts and warnings. These systems may be used individually, but in most circumstances a combination of more than one system will be most effective.



KENTON COUNTY EOP SUPPORT PLAN

ALERTS AND WARNING PROCEDURES

TWO-WAY RADIOS

KCECC operates the public safety radio system in Kenton County, and maintains direct contact with all law enforcement, Fire, EMS and Emergency Management units in Kenton County. This radio system can be used to send alert and warning information, and may also be useful for receiving information needed for certain types of alerts or warnings.

This system includes area hospitals which may not be physically located in Kenton County, but are near enough to be involved in alerts and warnings.

OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

Outdoor warning sirens are designed to warn people who are outdoors within a designated radius of the siren location in times of imminent emergencies, and they are strategically located throughout Kenton County. People who are indoors and partially insulated from the sound of the siren may not be effectively notified, and therefore additional alert systems should also be used.

The warning signal shall be a five (5) minute, continuous, steady siren tone. Sounding of the warning siren shall mean "Take cover, tune in to NOAA Weather Radio and local media outlets for information, and take appropriate actions".

Outdoor Warning Sirens are most often used for Severe Weather notifications, but may also be used for other warning purposes. Activation of the warning sirens for any reason other than Severe Weather should always be accompanied by a media release with explanation and instructions to the public.

For additional information regarding the testing, operation, activation, and maintenance of the Outdoor Warning Siren System, refer to the "Outdoor Warning System Plan" which is a support plan for the Kenton County EOP.

GEO-NOTIFICATION COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (CODE RED)

A geo-notification communication system is a computerized telephone messaging system which calls citizens in a selected geographic area with a recorded emergency message. These systems are sometimes referred to as "Reverse 911" systems. Kenton County currently utilizes "Code Red" for this service.

KCHSEM manages the Code Red system, and KCECC also has the ability to generate and send out notifications. KCECC may record and send out an emergency message at the request of a law enforcement or Fire/EMS agency. If the target area includes more than one city or jurisdiction, approval from KCHSEM is required before sending.

These systems can be utilized for many notifications which include, but are not limited to, hazardous materials incidents, missing persons, severe weather warnings, and dangerous / violent persons nearby.

ADDITIONAL WARNING SYSTEMS

- A. Public Safety Radio Transmitter: Portable radio transmitter with a maximum range of up to 5 miles. KCHSEM personnel operate the system.



KENTON COUNTY EOP SUPPORT PLAN

ALERTS AND WARNING PROCEDURES

- B. Emergency Email Network: Automatic email relay of National Weather Service warnings to network subscribers. KCHSEM personnel can also post messages to the network.
- C. Mobile Emergency Vehicle Sirens and Public Address Systems: Local law enforcement, fire, and EMS agencies can utilize their vehicles that are equipped with sirens and public address systems to drive around areas and provide notifications of alerts and warnings.
- D. Door To Door (In Person): Teams of individuals, usually first responders, can walk and / or drive around areas and knock on doors to provide notifications.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Wilmington, Ohio is the agency that issues severe weather watches and warnings for Kenton County. Weather alerts are issued through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio system via a transmission station (KIH42) in Covington, Kentucky using a radio frequency of 162.550 MHz. KCECC continuously monitors the NOAA Weather Radio and has responsibility for activation of the Outdoor Warning Sirens. NOAA Weather Radio may also disseminate alerts and warnings that are not weather related.

The following definitions apply to National Weather Service alerts:

- Watch – conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop
- Warning – severe weather conditions are imminent or already occurring

KCECC has primary responsibility to receive and disseminate severe weather watches and warnings for Kenton County. In the case of a Severe Thunderstorm Warning or a Tornado Warning that is issued for any part of Kenton County, they will immediately activate the Outdoor Warning Siren system and notify public safety units via the radio system.

The NWS and KCHSEM maintain a continuous effort to encourage all occupancies to have a working NOAA Weather Radio so they may receive timely notification of severe weather and other emergencies. It is assumed that all Kenton County schools, libraries, public golf courses, and government buildings, including all those with regular public access, possess NOAA Weather Radios to stay abreast of weather conditions.

Local severe weather spotters who have been trained by the National Weather Service to detect and report severe weather should report directly to the NWS Office in Wilmington via telephone or amateur radio. Occasionally, weather spotters and citizens may report severe weather to the KCECC. Reports that meet Severe Weather Spotter criteria will be relayed to the NWS Office in Wilmington by KCECC (See Severe Weather Notification Procedure – Appendix 1).



KENTON COUNTY EOP SUPPORT PLAN

ALERTS AND WARNING PROCEDURES

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) can be used to provide alerts, warnings, and emergency information to the general population. KCHSEM does not have immediate access to the EAS, but they can request the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management (KYEM) to activate the EAS.

Along with the EAS, NOAA Weather Radio may be used to disseminate alerts and warnings that are not weather related. When this situation develops, KYEM is the primary contact point at 1 (800) 255-2587. All requests for broadcast of alert or warning messages which are not weather related must be authenticated by the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management. The local designated EAS stations are:

RADIO: WLW-AM 700 Cincinnati, Ohio

TELEVISION: WCVN KET 54 Covington, Kentucky

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: KCECC SEVERE WEATHER NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Appendix 2: KCECC SOG FOR NOTIFICATION OF KCHSEM



KENTON COUNTY EOP SUPPORT PLAN

ALERTS AND WARNING PROCEDURES

APPENDIX 1 – KCECC SEVERE WEATHER NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

KENTON COUNTY HOMELAND SECURITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

KENTON COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
SEVERE WEATHER NOTIFICATIONS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Appendix is to alleviate confusion on the difference between a weather warning and a weather watch, and identify the proper notifications to be made for each.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. DEFINITIONS

The term WATCH means that conditions are favorable for the severe weather to occur; stay alert and be prepared. The term WARNING means that severe weather has been detected in the area: take protective actions immediately.

B. EXAMPLES:

Tornado WATCH – issued by the National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma when conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes.

Tornado WARNING – issued by the National Weather Service Office in Wilmington, Ohio when a tornado is indicated by radar or sighted by trained weather spotters.

Severe Thunderstorm WATCH – issued by the National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma when conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms. A severe thunderstorm by definition is a thunderstorm that produces 3/4 inch diameter hail or larger and/or winds equal to or exceeding 58 miles an hour.

Severe Thunderstorm WARNING – issued by the National Weather Service Office in Wilmington, Ohio when a severe thunderstorm is indicated by radar or sighted by trained weather spotters.

III. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

The Kenton County Emergency Communications Center (KCECC) has the primary responsibility to receive and disseminate severe weather watches and warnings.



KENTON COUNTY EOP SUPPORT PLAN

ALERTS AND WARNING PROCEDURES

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATION

A. Emergency weather information can be received by KCECC from NOAA Weather Radio, Television, Radio, Internet, and the Law Enforcement Network of Kentucky.

B. PROCEDURES

1. The following notifications will be made by KCECC, when a WEATHER WATCH is received:
 - KCECC will notify all Emergency Management personnel so that they may monitor the situation.
2. The following notifications will be made by KCECC, when a WEATHER WARNING is received:
 - KCECC will notify all Emergency Management personnel.
 - KCECC will send notification to County and City officials and command level public safety personnel advising of the warning.
 - If the warning is for a Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado, the Outdoor Warning Siren system will be activated and a Code Red notification will be sent out.
3. The following page contains reporting criteria for the KCECC to call into the National Weather Service Office in Wilmington, Ohio. These reports provide critical warning criteria information to the National Weather Service.



KENTON COUNTY EOP SUPPORT PLAN

ALERTS AND WARNING PROCEDURES

SEVERE WEATHER INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

CALL 1-800-899-2748 OR (937) 383-0031 immediately when the following weather conditions occur or are reported by credible sources.

Significant Severe Weather:

1. Tornado
2. Funnel Clouds
3. Wall Clouds
4. Persistent Rotation in the clouds
5. Hail ½ inch or larger
6. Any healthy trees uprooted or downed
7. Multiple large healthy limbs downed (3 inches in diameter or greater)
8. One inch or more of rain in 1 hour (measured)
9. Significant or widespread damage as a result of a storm

Flash Flooding:

1. Any flooding that results in evacuation
2. High water rescues from roofs or trees
3. Vehicles carried away by flood waters
4. Water covering roads (Indicate the depth, and whether moving or standing)
5. Water entering homes (not just basements)
6. Roads closed or impassible due to high water
7. Small Streams overflowing their banks
8. Damage caused by flash flooding

Winter Weather:

1. Any freezing rain or drizzle
2. Thunder or lightning associated with winter precipitation
3. One inch or more of snow in one (1) hour
4. More than 1" of snow during the past 24 hours
5. When first measuring 2", 4", and 6" of snow
6. Storm total snowfall

When making a report be sure to include the following information:

- Your name and that you are calling from Kenton County KCECC
- Exact location and time of the event
- A detailed description of the weather event
- Directional movement of the storm if known
- When the report was received and who made the report (be prepared to provide name and callback number if possible)



KENTON COUNTY EOP SUPPORT PLAN

ALERTS AND WARNING PROCEDURES

APPENDIX 2 – KCECC SOG FOR NOTIFICATION OF KCHSEM

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE FOR DISPATCH AND NOTIFICATION OF KENTON COUNTY HOMELAND SECURITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE

This Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) has been developed for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Center (KCECC) to identify the situations and occurrences in which personnel of Kenton County Homeland Security Emergency Management (KCHSEM) are to be dispatched or notified. Also included within this SOG is the manner in which such dispatch or notification is to be made. While this SOG attempts to identify all situations in which KCHSEM should be dispatched or notified, it is by no means all-inclusive or an absolute standard in which no deviation is allowed. If the dispatcher is not certain whether or not an incident meets the criteria then notification should be made.

KCECC is provided access to the KCHSEM On-call calendar so they can determine which representative is on call. Contact phone numbers will be kept up-to-date for all KCHSEM personnel.

KCECC personnel should be aware that dispatch or notification does not necessarily mean that a response from a KCHSEM official will follow. Each situation will be judged on a case by case basis and the KCHSEM official will decide if a response is warranted.

DISPATCH

Dispatch of the on-call KCHSEM official for the following incident nature codes should be completed by the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system when the first alarm deployment is dispatched on appropriate Fire Channel. If they are not included, the KCHSEM unit should immediately be added to the call and dispatched.

- 1MCI** – Mass Casualty Incident
- 1HZ** – Hazardous Materials Incident
- 1PC** – Plane Crash
- 1TW** – Train Wreck Accident
- 1TT** – Train Tanker fire/leak
- 1FU** – Fuel / Gasoline Spill (Greater than 25 gallons)
- 500** – Signal 500
- 1SC** – School Crisis
- 1TRT** – Technical Rescue
- 1SWR** – Swift Water Rescue



KENTON COUNTY EOP SUPPORT PLAN

ALERTS AND WARNING PROCEDURES

KCECC Notification Guidelines

Upon being dispatched to an incident the KCHSEM official will notify KCECC on the 59 Fire-Ops channel, or by phone, that they are responding. If a response does not seem warranted by initial dispatch information, the KCHSEM official will advise KCECC that they are aware of the incident and will monitor the incident to determine if a response is warranted based on the information conveyed by first arriving response personnel.

When KCHSEM is requested by another agency, KCECC will verify if the department or agency is requesting for them to respond or just be notified. If they are requested to respond, KCECC will add the on call KCHSEM official to the existing incident and dispatch them on the Fire Alert channel via tone-alerting. If the request is for notification only, then calling directly on their cell phone or the text message-paging system should be utilized.

NOTIFICATION

There are occasions when notification of the on-call KCHSEM official is made utilizing the KCECC text message - paging system. KCECC will notify the on-call KCHSEM official of the nature and location of the incident, or request them to contact KCECC by telephone. When a reply is necessary, the KCHSEM official on-call will acknowledge by telephone or radio depending on the situation.

Examples of situations for notification via text message - paging system:

- ◆ Request for activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- ◆ Any incident requiring the prolonged closure (thirty minutes or greater) of any or all lanes of travel on any major roadways (Interstate 71/75 or 275, U.S. 25, KY 16, 17, 536, etc.). During incidents on these roadways it is essential that proactive steps be taken by the KCECC to contact units on scene to determine if a road closure is involved and the expected duration of the closure. The Kentucky Division of Emergency Management should also be notified of these closures through their 24 hour Duty Officer by calling 1-800-255-2587.
- ◆ Incidents involving a missing or lost individual which may necessitate an Amber, Golden, Golden-D, Green, or Blue Alert.
- ◆ Any incident involving a lost or missing person when an active search operation is initiated (with the exception of juvenile runaways and suspect pursuits).
- ◆ Anytime Boone County Water Rescue (or other water rescue agency) is requested or dispatched within Kenton County.
- ◆ Any incident involving a suspected explosive device, including the report or the actual observance of an explosion.
- ◆ Any Incident involving or suspected of involving Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) including: Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or Explosive.



KENTON COUNTY EOP SUPPORT PLAN

ALERTS AND WARNING PROCEDURES

- ◆ Any reported structure fire, explosion, or release of a hazardous material from any of the following Extremely Hazardous Substance (EHS) facilities:

KENTON COUNTY EHS FACILITIES

<u>Name of Facility</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Charter Spectrum	100 Barnwood Dr., Edgewood. KY 41017	513-386-5919
Bluegrass Quality Meats	2645 Commerce Drive, Erl. KY 41018	859-394-0689
Gliers Meats	533 Goetta Place, Covington, KY 41011	859-291-1800
Taylor Farms	3776 Lake Park Dr., Covington, KY 41015	859-5678-3125
Cincinnati Bell	2611 Dixie Hwy., Lakeside Park, KY 41017	513-566-4581
Cincinnati Bell	5339 Madison PK., Independence, KY 41051	513-566-4581
Cincinnati Bell	111 E. 11th Street, Covington, KY 41011	513-566-4581
White Castle	2009 Rolling Hills Dr., Covington, KY 41015	859-341-4600
Camco Chemical	8150 Holton Dr., Florence, KY 41042	859-727-3200
United Dairy Farmers	2825 Crescent Springs Rd, Erlanger, KY 41018	513-396-8700
Iofina	1025 Mary Laidley Dr., Cov., KY 41017	859-356-8000
Highway Transport	7800 Foundation Dr., Florence, KY 41042	859-727-2855
Signode	7080 Industrial Rd., Florence, KY 41042	859-727-7427
Mubea	6800 Industrial Road, Florence, KY 41042	513-239-9102
Progress Rail	8587 Railroad Drive, Cov., KY	859-291-5564
AO Smith	8160 Holton Drive, Florence, KY 41042	859-727-3500
Firestone Building Products	8170 Holton Drive, Florence, KY 41042	859-655-3753
Wild Flavors	1261 Pacific Ave., Erlanger, KY 41018	859-283-4070
Loreal USA	7080 Buffington Road, Florence, KY 41042	859-727-5350
Regal Beloit	7120 New Buffington Rd., Florence, KY 41042	859-727-5268

- ◆ Any of the following incidents taking place on the Ohio River, or other waterway, within the confines of Kenton County
 - 1) Drowning or suspected drowning
 - 2) Barge breakaway
 - 3) Loss of cargo from a barge
 - 4) Vessel fire
 - 5) Barge or vessel sinking
 - 6) Vessel collision
- ◆ Any request for the response of Command 100 (NKY Mobile Command Post) for an incident in Kenton County.
- ◆ Any request for response of the Northern Kentucky Regional Hazmat/WMD Response Unit in Kenton County.



KENTON COUNTY EOP SUPPORT PLAN

ALERTS AND WARNING PROCEDURES

- ◆ Any incident known or suspected to involve a Clandestine Drug Lab (methamphetamine) unless Law Enforcement indicates that Hazmat unit support is not needed.
- ◆ Any report of a Mass Casualty Incident or request for response of a Mass Casualty Unit.
- ◆ Any motor vehicle accident involving a publicly or privately owned school bus, T.A.N.K., Greyhound, tour bus or any other passenger-occupied bus.
- ◆ Any incident involving a bomb threat received at a school, hospital, government facility, or other critical facility.
- ◆ Any response of the Northern Kentucky Technical Rescue Team into Kenton County.
- ◆ Any weather related event resulting in damage to structures or significant damage to public infrastructure.
- ◆ Any significant flooding or flash flooding which causes road closures, property damage, rescues or evacuations.
- ◆ Any significant Brush / Grass Fire which requires mutual aid departments and / or KY Division of Forestry response.
- ◆ Widespread or prolonged power outages or other significant utility disruptions.
- ◆ Any incident requiring the evacuation of an area or of a facility requiring reception and care for the population (e.g. hospitals, nursing facilities, senior citizen housing, or other high residential or large assembly facilities).
- ◆ All KCHSEM personnel should be notified of the following weather watches or warnings when issued by the National Weather Service:
 - Tornado Watch or Tornado Warning
 - Severe Thunderstorm Watch or Severe Thunderstorm Warning
 - Flash Flood Watch or Flash Flood Warning
 - Flood Watch or Flood Warning
 - Winter Storm Watch or Winter Storm Warning
 - Blizzard Warning

If an incident or situation occurs which is not mentioned in this procedure, and the dispatcher is unsure if notification of KCHSEM personnel is warranted, then notification of the on-call KCHSEM official should be made.