

# the checkup

your pulse on preparedness

A Kansas Healthcare Coalition Publication

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Coming Soon...

## Burn Surge Annex Tabletop Exercises

It's time to test each region's well-thought out annex for a mass burn response! Each region will have the opportunity to test their plan with area partners. This will be a great exercise to attend, participate in and document for upcoming survey requirements too. Continuing Nursing Education will be provided via Citizens Medical Center and EMS Staff will have a Continuing Education Packet provided. Be watching for specifics from your Readiness & Response Coordinator on your region's exercise location, time, and KS Train registration details.

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| Metro        | 5/26/22 |
| Northeast    | 6/7/22  |
| Northwest    | 5/3/22  |
| Southeast    | 5/18/22 |
| Southcentral | 5/18/22 |
| Southwest    | 5/4/22  |



Coming This Summer

## Advanced Burn Life Support Classes



ABLS Classes will be held in each of the seven regions in Kansas this Summer. Developed by the American Burn Association (ABA), Advanced Burn Life Support provides guidelines in the assessment and management of the burn patient during the first 24 hours post injury.

Following a series of lectures, case studies are presented for group discussion. Participants will have an opportunity to work with a simulated burn patient to reinforce assessment, stabilization and ABA transfer criteria to a burn center.

Final testing consists of a written exam and a practical assessment. Registration fees including tuition, manual, study guide, test, continuing education credits, four-year certification card, etc. are all paid for by your region. The class is offered on a first come/first serve basis. ABLS is designed for RNs/APRNs, PAs, MDs, DOs, paramedics who work in ER/trauma, ICU, flight, pre-hospital settings. Be watching for details on your region's class from your Readiness & Response Coordinator.



The Friday before Memorial Day is  
**Don't Fry Day™**

To help reduce rising rates of skin cancer from overexposure to the ultraviolet (UV) rays of the sun, the National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention has designated the Friday before Memorial Day as "Don't Fry Day" to encourage sun safety awareness and to remind everyone to protect their skin while enjoying the outdoors. The National Council encourages everyone, including non-profit organizations, local, state, and federal governments, public health professionals, and educators to promote the importance of skin cancer prevention and sun-safety behaviors.

The ABA states that roughly 450,000 patients receive hospital and emergency room treatment for burns each year. This statistic does not account for burn injuries treated in hospital clinics, private medical offices, or community health centers. Of these burn injuries, roughly 3,400 burn injury deaths occur each year. Pediatric burn statistics for 2000:

1. Scalding is the most common burn injury in children under four years old,
2. An estimated 50 percent of scalds are from spilled food and drinks,
3. Each year, roughly 250,000 children require medical attention for burn injuries.

## Be prepared for... Staying Safe During Wildfires



Unfortunately, Kansans have had their fill of wildfires and many have learned the hard way, some of the precautions that should be taken prior to such catastrophes. Wildfires are unplanned fires that burn in natural areas like forests, grasslands, or prairies. They spread quickly and can devastate entire communities.

1. Make sure you are connected to several alert messaging services. The INAAalert System via the Healthcare Coalition can help keep you apprised as to what might be transpiring in your region. You can download the FEMA app, get real-time alerts from the National Weather Service, sign up for local alert systems, the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA). Pay close attention to air quality alerts especially if you or a household member has respiratory issues.

2. Make an emergency plan and review it with your household. Include in your plan a plan for the office, kids' daycare or other places you frequent.
3. Make sure insurance policies and personal documents are up-to-date, kept in a safe place and copies in a secure digital space.
4. Use fire-resistant materials to build, renovate or make repairs to your home.
5. Create a fire-resistant zone that is free of leaves, debris or flammable materials for at least 30 feet from your home.
6. Close all doors and windows if smoky conditions exist. Set up a portable air cleaner to keep outdoor pollution out and indoor pollution levels low.
7. Have supplies for your household including a first aid kit in your "To Go" bag or vehicle storage area.
8. Be cautious when carrying flammable or combustible household products that can cause fires or explosions if handled wrong.
9. Keep your cell phone charged when wildfires could be in your area. Purchase backup charging devices to power electronics.
10. If trapped, call 911 and give your location. Turn on light to help rescuers find you.
11. If you are not ordered to evacuate but smoky conditions exist, stay inside in a safe location or go to a community building where smoke levels are lower. Use high efficiency filters in your central air conditioning system to capture fine particles from smoke. If your system has fresh air intake, set the system to "recirculate" mode and close the outdoor intake damper.
12. Do not return home until authorities say it is safe to do so.
13. Avoid hot ash, charred trees, smoldering debris and live embers. The ground may contain heat pockets that can burn you or spark another fire.
14. Use a respirator to limit your exposure, and wet debris to minimize breathing dust particles. People with asthma, COPD and/or other lung conditions should take precautions in areas with poor air quality, as it can worsen symptoms.

*The above article is condensed from Ready.com*

## May 31, 2022 is... Dam Safety Day

*"The lake above the dam was swollen as it had rained for four days. Officials were watching the dam and concerned that it would break as it was not built to today's standards. At 1:30 am, the dam broke. Forty acres of water spilled over the high waterfalls creating a 30 foot wall of water that demolished everything in its path. By morning, 39 people has died and our beautiful college campus was destroyed." (11/6/77) - Beth Vallier*

National Dam Safety Awareness Day is established by FEMA and seeks to encourage and promote individual and community responsibility and best practices for dam safety, as well as what steps can be taken to prevent catastrophic dam failures. It is held to commemorate the failure of the South Fork Dam in Johnstown, Pennsylvania in which over 2,200 lives were lost. For more information see: <https://www.fema.gov/.../dam-safety/awareness-day>.

## WPS & GETS Call Updates for iPhones

Apple's iOS 15.4 update prevents the PTS Dialer app from placing both Wireless Priority Service (WPS) and WPS & Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) calls. WPS and WPS & GETS calls will work normally if subscribers dial manually without use of the app. GETS calls will work normally with or without the app.

Further questions about this change can be directed to [support@priority-info.com](mailto:support@priority-info.com) or 866-627-2255.

# Best Practices Around Kansas



***Metro:*** - We're going to have a live demonstration of the dangers of fire with home medical oxygen, as well as a device that can help.

***Northcentral:*** The NCK region is taking some of their cues for preparedness from articles such as the following with regard to preparing for any future pandemic responses. [hbr.org \[SHARED\]\(1\).PDF](http://hbr.org/[SHARED](1).PDF)

***Northeast:*** The NEK region is partnering with Fire Departments to utilize the PortaCount Machines. Departments can purchase the face masks and adapters on their end and use the NEK PortaCount Machine(s) for the testing.

***Northwest:*** One of the NW region's hospitals is making several beds available in case there is an emergency. Having dedicated beds makes a tremendous difference in our planning.

***Southeast:*** We are planning to have the business portion of our HCC meeting in the morning leaving time for presentations and training in the afternoon. We plan to address radio programming and communications, the various systems we all use, HCC 101, etc.

***Southcentral:*** Butler County Emergency Mgmt. has a cache of PPE supplies. They work with Butler County EMS to rotate the supplies so that they won't expire. When Butler County EMS needs to order supplies, they pull the needed supplies from the cache and then replace what they pulled when the new order is delivered. This way the cache supplies are always current.

***Southwest:*** Our hospital representatives are all encouraged to forward to all medical staff the newsletter created by our Clinical Advisors. The newsletter is called, The Advisor and relays current initiatives with regard to emergency preparedness, introduces the advisors and helps to keep medical staff on the same page. The next newsletter will feature Pediatric Emergency Response and Kansas Search & Rescue Teams.

*From KDHE...*

## Requirements for Entering Healthcare Facilities

Marilyn St Peter, Director Health Facilities Program at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment provided the following information and requested Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) to share this information with KHA members.

Requirements for entering healthcare facilities such as visitation restrictions and screening procedures have been used throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. CMS has identified in QSO-21-08 NLTC (Revised 2/4/22) that continued visitation restrictions for acute and continuing care (ACC) facilities are no longer necessary. However, facilities should adhere to basic infection control (including COVID-19) principles consistent with national standards of practice such as CDC guidance.

KDHE does not have infection control guidance more prescriptive than CMS or CDC. Facilities should continue to consult with state and local public health officials to determine if modifications to visitation and screening are appropriate on a case by case basis or as COVID-19 case rates increase in certain geographic locations within our state. Facilities should have policies/procedures in place to manage source control (masking) and to identify and manage individuals with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection.

KDHE Health Facility Surveyors will continue to evaluate infection control prevention and control elements (still to include COVID-19) through the existing survey process and determine through observations, interviews and record reviews whether the facility is consistently following processes (policies/procedures) that are based on national standards of practice to meet Medicare required Conditions of Participation (CoP) for Infection Control. Please reference the State Operations Manual, CFR 482.42 (CoP – Infection Control) for additional information.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact us as follows:

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## HCC Workplan Items Due this Quarter:

- Redundant Communication Drill if at least six months from the last drill.
- Secure Lead/Co-Lead Hospital(s) for 2022-2023.
- Distribute de-identified data from EmPOWER to membership
- June 31st - Celebrate the end of the fiscal year!



May 6-12 National Nurses Week  
A Voice to Lead, A Vision For Future  
Healthcare  
Thank you to all the HCC  
Nurses! You are the best!

A recent study showed that, *Public health employees are committed to their work and recognize its value. More than 9 in 10 employees say their work is important and they are determined to give their best effort every day. Eighty-eight percent say they know how their work relates to their organization's goals and priorities.* (Rising Stress & Burn Out in Public Health, by the de Beaumont Foundation)



EmPOWER data can be used for your county's planning for unforeseen events. How many electrical outlets would be needed in a shelter? How many people need help with transportation? How many O2 canisters/concentrators might need to be secured? On and on the list grows for planning ahead. If you need the most recent EmPOWER data, please contact your Readiness and Response Coordinator.



Kansas City Metro HCC Membership Meeting 6/23/22 at 2:00 pm via TEAMS. Please register for this meeting on KS Train using course number 1092673.

NCK HCC Membership Meeting will be held on 5/13/22 at 9:00 am via TEAMS. NCK HCC uses KS Train course number 1092953.

NEKHCC Membership Meeting will be held 6/7/22 at 9:00 am via TEAMS. Please register for this meeting on KS Train using course number 1071554.

NW HCC Membership Meeting will be held Tuesday, 6/13/22 at 1:30 pm. Please register for this meeting on KS Train using course number 1084798.

SC HCC Membership Meeting will be held on 5/18/22 via TEAMS. Please register for this meeting on KS Train using course number 1098828.

SEKS HCC Membership Meeting will be held 6/28/22 at 10:00 am. Use KS Train course number 1092952.

SHERT HCC Membership Meeting will be held on 5/13/22 at 10:00 am. Please register on KSTrain using course number, 1089096.

## SWK HCC in the Spotlight

The Southwest Kansas HCC Region (SHERT) would like to recognize Darendia Berryman with Ashland Health Center. She is a recent new member and has been quickly learning how to best assist the HCC and her own facility with emergency preparedness efforts. She has also recently accepted the position of the Hospital Representative for the Executive Committee.

*We appreciate Darendia's willingness to learn and assist anywhere she is able to. - Jonathon Blackburn & Mindi Bremer*



We Are  
Health Care  
NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK | MAY 8 - 14

May 8-14 National Hospital Week  
Thank you for all who faithfully serve in Kansas hospitals. Enjoy your special week!



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Additions or corrections to the newsletter should be addressed to Beth ([beth@hccpkansas.com](mailto:beth@hccpkansas.com)).