

## **Division of Emergency Management:**

The Kentucky Division of Emergency Management is authorized and created by KRS Chapter 39A and has established fourteen (14) area offices to administer the emergency management program functions of the agency. Each area office is staffed by an Area Manager, and an Office Coordinator and services a geographical area of approximately 7-10 counties.

The Kentucky Division of Emergency Management is headquartered at Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort, Kentucky and operates under the direction of the Adjutant General of the Department of Military Affairs and the Director of KYDEM. The chief executive of the jurisdiction heads EM organizations on the local level.

An Emergency Management Director appointed by the CJE or mayor conducts the administrative affairs of the local organization. Each local government is required in KRS Chapter 39 A to develop its own resources and an emergency operations plan which by law must be consistent with the KYEOP.

When these resources are expended or overloaded, the chief executive may request state assistance. The Kentucky Division of Emergency Management will then coordinate a state response with the local jurisdiction. If and when state resources are exhausted, then the KYDEM Director advises the Governor to ask for a presidential disaster declaration, which if granted, brings in Federal assistance and money.

The new KRS Chapter 39 has many new aspects; it allows local jurisdictions to develop mutual aid agreements, not only with other Kentucky counties, but also with counties or communities in adjoining states. Each local jurisdiction must also now, by the end of this federal fiscal year in September, appoint a Search and Rescue Coordinator for that jurisdiction. Local EM Directors may be given the authority by their appointing CJE or Mayor, to act in the behalf of that official in disaster situations. The KYDEM Director also has the authority to appoint a local EM Director to represent State DEM on disaster responses.

This is intended as a basic summary of the changes brought about to the Emergency Management structure of the Commonwealth of Kentucky by the new KRS Chapter 39. Those wishing to view this document in greater depth are encouraged to check out the full legislation through the KYDEM Home Page at [www.websolve.dma.state.ky.us](http://www.websolve.dma.state.ky.us)

The Operations Branch headed by Homer Druin coordinates the response of the 14 area offices throughout the commonwealth. It is also responsible for the operation of the KY Emergency Operations Center and State Emergency Communications Center in Frankfort during disasters.

The Emergency Communications Center is Kentucky's front line warning point and as such operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The main radio system operates on the low band; specifically 45.400, 45.600, 45.960 and 46.01 MHz. This system services not only DEM, but also the State Fire Marshals Office, Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Cabinet Emergency Response Teams and KY State Police mobile command posts.

Search and Rescue Branch provides funding for the numerous rescue squads throughout our state to augment their equipment and capabilities with needed additions and support. They also oversee the conduct of search and rescue training techniques and coordination with the Civil Air Patrol, local rescue teams and the KY Search Dog Association.

The Automated Flood Warning System formerly called IFLOWS provides early warning of flash floods in 41 eastern KY counties. This is a system of seven base stations, and 11 control consoles linked by microwave frequencies and uses 185 solar powered rain gauges which reports data at five minute intervals.

The Emergency Alert System which links together broadcast stations throughout Kentucky includes a dedicated link from EOC Frankfort to WHAS/WAMZ in Louisville and WVLK AM/FM in Lexington. These link to other broadcasters throughout the state.

These are but a sampling of the programs and functional arms of KY Division of Emergency Management. Other programs would include; Disaster assistance both to individual families and local governmental entities during disasters, the Hazard Mitigation Branch which is dedicated to lessening the effects of future disasters, the Preparedness Branch which is dedicated to planning and survivable crisis management.

Sara Title III is a program that monitors and inventories hazardous chemicals statewide. The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Branch in the vicinity of the Bluegrass Army Depot, Local Programs Branch, Earthquake Preparedness, Severe Storms Preparedness and Training and Exercise Sections round off the most visible programs As you can see KYDEM is an all encompassing agency with a multitude of operations and chances for us as amateurs to serve and assist in crisis and disaster situations.

Source: Kentucky Amateur Radio Web Site – [www.kyham.net](http://www.kyham.net)