

SPRING 2006

IN THIS ISSUE

COVER

Weighing the Risks

COMMUNITIES

Continued from cover

FIRST RESPONDERS

Law Enforcement
receives Homeland
Security Training

FAMILIES

Public Awareness
Campaign

KOHS HEADQUARTERS

Comments by (Ret.)
Major Alecia
Webb-Edgington

KOHS Releases
Grant Application

Emergency Workers
Honored



Ernie Fletcher
Governor

Steve Pence
Lieutenant Governor



ANSWERING THE CALL

PREPARING KENTUCKY'S COMMUNITIES • FIRST RESPONDERS • FAMILIES

"The urgency of our nation's security is the calling of our times" – President George W. Bush

WEIGHING THE RISKS

Each day, over 70,000 semi-trucks roll through Kentucky carrying tons of freight to destinations throughout the nation. They travel interstate highways that cross over one-third of the state's counties, and they carry in them a wide array of goods and other commodities. Kentucky's unique geographic location makes it a virtual crossroads for the American trucking industry. Because of location and a number of other factors, Kentucky's interstate transportation system is thriving, making the security of Kentucky's highways a critical issue.

The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security (KOHS), in partnership with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Kentucky State Police and Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement, is moving forward to improve the safety and reliability of Kentucky's transportation system while also supporting the state's commercial and economic infrastructure.

Already this year, one radiation detector has been installed at a weigh station in southern Kentucky and more are expected to be installed soon. This technology is working to improve security on our roadways, but, the state has also recognized the critical need to keep the state's port-of-entry weigh stations open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Currently, weigh



Each day more than 70,000 commercial vehicles travel Kentucky's highways, carrying to destinations throughout the nation.

RISKS Continued on Preparing Communities page.

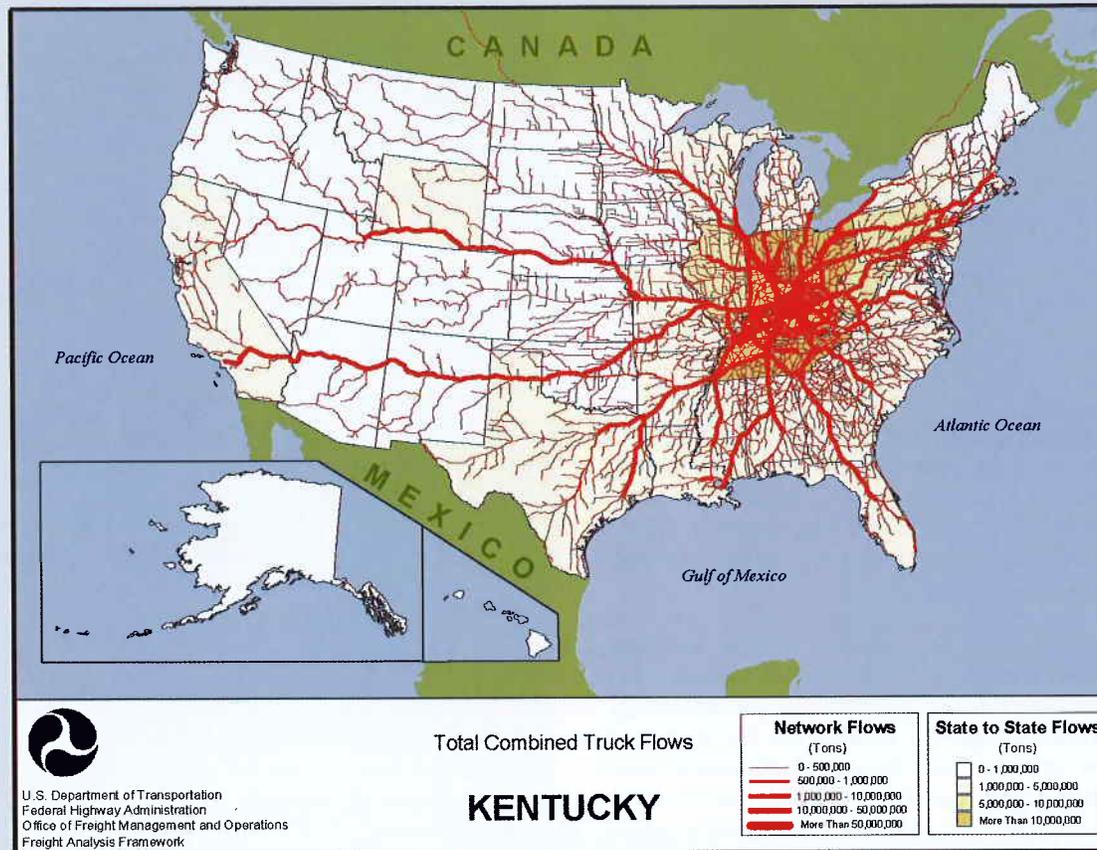
PREPARING COMMUNITIES

RISKS Continued from cover.

stations throughout the state operate on average eight hours a day. An analysis is currently being conducted to determine the cost and staffing feasibility of this initiative.

Additionally, an analysis is also being conducted on the viability of implementing mobile interdiction teams trained to patrol commercial vehicles traveling the state's secondary routes.

(Ret.) Maj. Alecia Webb-Edgington, Director of the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, said of the initiative, "Kentucky can lead the nation in and establish the national model for commercial vehicle inspections while simultaneously adding drug interdiction to ongoing homeland security efforts."



By simple virtue of its geographic location, Kentucky becomes a natural bottleneck, allowing for the inspections of freight criss-crossing the nation.

PREPARING FIRST RESPONDERS

KENTUCKY LAW ENFORCEMENT TO RECEIVE HOMELAND SECURITY TRAINING IN 2006

Terrorist attacks, bombings, agricultural attacks, biological health contaminant threats and radiological material – all are possible threats Kentucky communities could face at some point in time. Beginning in 2006, all of the Commonwealth's local law enforcement officers will have a much better handle on how to deal with them.

Every law enforcement officer in Kentucky will now be required to complete a 40-hour course in homeland security – a topic that has become increasingly important in policing in recent years.

"Kentucky's law enforcement officers are a critical piece of our Commonwealth's overall preparedness and first response capabilities," Lt. Gov. Steve Pence said. "By providing every officer with this training, we are ensuring they can effectively handle homeland security and public safety issues."

Dubbed the 100% Project, the recently mandated training will consist of a five-day course conducted by the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) and will include an introduction to the federal and state homeland security offices, Kentucky homeland security concerns and an overview of the Incident Command System.

"During the 1975-76 training year, the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council focused exclusively on a crime prevention course in an effort to alter the direction of policing toward crime prevention rather than responding to or following up on reported crimes," DOCJT Commissioner John Bizzack said.

"That one year of focus on crime prevention embedded new thinking and police management philosophy within the ranks of police leadership and those officers evolved into leadership positions over the next 30 years," he said.

Bizzack envisions similar results with the homeland security training.



"We want homeland security to become embedded as a management philosophy among all law enforcement agencies ensuring that all agencies will operate from the same guidelines if there is an incident," he said.

DOCJT trains nearly all of the law enforcement officers in Kentucky. The department will suspend most professional development courses normally offered each year, and will also extend basic training for recruit officers from 16 to 18 weeks to include the 40-hour class as well as other training.

KOHS director, (Ret.) Maj. Alecia Webb-Edgington added, "This training will identify a number of areas that will improve law enforcement's prevention and response capabilities, not only to a terrorist incident, but in their daily activities as well."

PREPARING FAMILIES

KENTUCKY LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE TO HELP CITIZENS PREPARE FOR POTENTIAL DISASTERS

WWW.PROTECTYOURFAMILY.KY.GOV

A new web site was just recently launched to provide step-by-step instructions for Kentuckians to develop personal family emergency plans and emergency supply kits.

The site, www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov, outlines components helpful for a family emergency situation, lists items for a dependable supply kit, and provides details on family communications in case of a natural or man-made disaster.

The website will be publicized by statewide public service campaign to encourage Kentuckians to prepare for emergencies.

“When a natural or man-made emergency occurs, it is important that Kentuckians avoid hitting the panic button. By taking some simple steps to make an emergency plan, Kentuckians will be as prepared as possible if an emergency occurs,” said Gov. Ernie Fletcher. “By logging on to www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov, you will have the information you need right at your fingertips.”

In a recent national survey conducted by The Ad Council, 80 percent of Americans agreed that taking some simple steps to prepare could help protect themselves and their families in the event of an emergency. However, only 58 percent had assembled an emergency supply kit, developed a family emergency plan or learned more about potential threats, the three steps recommended by the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security’s “Avoid the Panic Button: Be Prepared” campaign.

The “Avoid the Panic Button: Be Prepared” campaign also promotes Kentucky’s Citizen Corps program. Citizen Corps, a volunteer training program, provides Kentuckians with quick and easy classes

to help them better prepare their families and care for their communities in the event of an emergency.

NEWSLETTER COMMENTS BY (RET.) MAJ. ALECIA WEBB-EDGINGTON DIRECTOR, KENTUCKY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY



Photo courtesy of Kirk Schlie

(Ret.) Major Alecia Webb-Edgington

2006 is already proving to be an exciting year for the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security and our preparedness partners. This year, we've kicked off our citizen awareness campaign, "Avoid the Panic Button: Protect Your Family", begun vulnerability assessments on 30 more communities throughout the state, and we're very close to completing the state's mobile data infrastructure. We have also released the application process

for our 2006 grants that will be announced later this summer.

All of these programs are working to ensure our state is ready and prepared, but none of it can be accomplished without your continued partnership and support of our commonwealth's homeland security efforts. It is truly every Kentuckian's responsibility to ensure we are prepared for a natural or man-made emergency and we thank you for answering this important call.

As we continue to identify needs and provide resources for our communities, families, and first responders, we have been encouraged by the many active citizens as well as state and private agency partnerships that have been developed. With your help, we will continue to make our commonwealth a safer and more secure place to live, work and raise a family.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Our goal is to coordinate and collaborate with you, our preparedness partners. We welcome your thoughts and ideas.

Jason Keller, Chief Public Affairs Officer · jasonr.keller@ky.gov

Nathan Jones, Director of Publications · nathan.jones@ky.gov

KENTUCKY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY RELEASES FY2006 GRANT APPLICATION

Recently, KOHS released the FY06 Homeland Security Grant Application for local and state officials. KOHS is excited about this year's application, having spent the past year taking an intense look at making the process more efficient, focused, and simple.

This year's application is now available online at www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov.

The deadline for applying is May 1, 2006, and grant awards will be made no later than August 1, 2006.

We invite any interested applicants or others with questions about Kentucky's Homeland Security grant process to please contact the KOHS grants department.

GOVERNOR FLETCHER HONORS KENTUCKY'S EMERGENCY WORKERS DURING FIRST RESPONDERS' DAY

Joining hundreds of Kentucky's law enforcement, firefighter and emergency personnel in the State Capitol, Governor Ernie Fletcher, along with the director of the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security (Ret.) Maj. Alecia Webb-Edgington, hosted a ceremony honoring the first observance of "First Responders' Day" in the commonwealth.

During the ceremony, the governor signed a proclamation declaring Feb. 9, 2006, as "First Responders' Day" in Kentucky and called for new legislation to improve 9-1-1 call centers throughout the state.

"We are continually inspired by the heroic sacrifices of our first responders, who in times of crisis provide our communities with unity, focus and strength," said Governor Fletcher. "We will remain committed to providing them and their communities with the resources they need to stay prepared."