

Kiowa County Division of Emergency Management
Elaine Lindholm, Director
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MEDIA RELEASE – For Immediate Release

(supplements, but does not replace, prior releases)

July 19, 2006

For more information contact
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KIOWA COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONDERS PREPARING TO TEST THEIR SKILLS

- Full scale training exercise scheduled for Saturday, August 26, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and is scheduled to run for three hours
- To be held on the Kiowa County Fairgrounds, northwest corner of Eads.
- Six local agencies planning to participate
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - Sheriff's Office
 - Division of Emergency Management
 - Public Health
 - Eads Volunteer Fire Department
 - Weisbrod Memorial Hospital
- Regional Agencies planning to participate
 - Colorado State Patrol Hazardous Materials Unit (evaluating and participating)
 - Colorado Division of Emergency Management (evaluating)
 - Bent County (dispatching)
- Scenario simulates a two-vehicle crash at the underpass near Highways 96 and 287, and will simulate a chemical release – NORMAL TRAFFIC WILL NOT BE AFFECTED, CHEMICALS ARE NOT BEING USED
- Full details of the scenario will not be available prior to the exercise so participants can test their skills against unknown elements
- Expert observer-controllers will monitor each agency's personnel to identify both strengths and weaknesses in the response.
- The exercise will be suspended or canceled if a real emergency occurs
- Sessions after the exercise will allow responders to discuss actions taken
- Community members are welcome to watch, but must stay in designated areas for safety purposes
- Addition information about the Kiowa County Division of Emergency Management is available from Elaine Lindholm, Director, at 719-438-2288.
- Funding for the training is provided by the Department of Homeland Security via the Colorado Division of Emergency Management
- Kiowa County is part of the Southeast Colorado All-Hazards Region, which also includes Baca, Bent, Otero, Prowers and Crowley Counties

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