



**MAY 2025**

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- It's Never Too Early to Plan ..... [1](#)
- The Aftermath of Success..... [3](#)
- Strengthening Emergency Preparedness:  
How County Commissioners Can Support  
Local Health Departments..... [5](#)
- A Word From Our President ..... [6](#)
- Foundations in County Government  
Program..... [7](#)
- Roadworthy News: Spill Prevention, Control,  
and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans for  
Kansas Counties ..... [9](#)
- Connecting Kansas Counties ..... [12](#)
- Local Government Job Openings ..... [20](#)

## IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO PLAN

*By Bruce Chladny, KAC Executive Director*



I've had the pleasure of traveling around the state for the past several months to attend regional meetings, association meetings, commission meetings and more. And I continue to be amazed at just how active, professional, and effective you all are! As county leaders, we know better than most that success rarely happens by chance. Whether it's preparing for a budget cycle, organizing a public works project, or responding to a community emergency, careful planning is the cornerstone of effective local government. That's why I want to take a moment to talk about a very important milestone on the horizon—one that deserves our full attention and a good deal of preparation.

This December marks the 50th anniversary of us hosting the Kansas Association of Counties Annual Conference & Exposition. For half a century, KAC has brought county officials together to learn from one another, advocate for county interests, and build stronger communities across the state. It's a legacy we can all be proud of, and one that deserves to be celebrated in a big way.

At this year's KAC Conference & Expo scheduled for December 9–11 in Wichita, KS, we plan to do just that—with a celebration fitting for five decades of service, leadership, and collaboration. And just like everything else that's worthwhile, pulling off a great anniversary celebration starts with planning. That's where you come in.

We are beginning to form a 50th Anniversary Planning Committee, and we're looking for enthusiastic, creative, and committed members from across the state to help us bring this event to life. Whether your strengths lie in event logistics, historical storytelling, outreach, or simply generating fun and meaningful ideas, we welcome your involvement.

This is a unique opportunity to help shape a celebration that not only honors our past but also inspires our future. Let's use this moment to reflect on how far we've come, recognize those who've built this organization, and lay the groundwork for the next 50 years of county leadership in Kansas.



KAC DELIVERS DAILY UPDATED NEWS AND INFORMATION ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND X/TWITTER. FOLLOW US TO STAY UP-TO-DATE ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS!

**KAC WEBSITE**  
[WWW.KANSASCOUNTIES.ORG](http://WWW.KANSASCOUNTIES.ORG)

If you're interested in being part of the planning committee—or if you have ideas you'd like to share—please reach out to me directly at [chladny@kansascounties.org](mailto:chladny@kansascounties.org) or contact the KAC office.

Together, let's make this anniversary one to remember. After all, it's never too early to plan. ■



## Keep Kansas Children Healthy & Thriving!



### Vaccination is our best defense against Measles

Measles is a highly contagious disease that weakens the immune system, and can result in severe, sometimes permanent, complications including pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and even death. Measles is especially dangerous for our young Kansans.

### Measles Outbreaks Are Serious

If one person has measles, **up to 9 out of 10** people around them will also become infected if they are not protected.



As of March 28, 2025, 23 measles cases have been reported in 6 Kansas counties.

**Two doses of the measles vaccine are 97% effective, while one dose is 93% effective at preventing the spread of measles.**

Children should be vaccinated with the combined measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

### How can I ensure that there are no outbreaks in the community I serve?

Community Immunity, also known as “herd immunity” is when a large part of the community has immunity to a disease and are able to “shield” those who don't have immunity from getting the disease.



MMR vaccination recommendations have been updated by the KDHE for counties that are impacted by this outbreak of measles and adjacent counties.

View KDHE's Health Alert to learn more about how to protect your community:



## COUNTY COMMENT

County Comment is published monthly as the official newsletter of the Kansas Association of Counties. Questions or comments are welcome and may be forwarded to [Kimberly Qualls, Education and Communications Director](#).

Kansas Association of Counties  
715 SW 10th Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66612

Bruce Chladny, KAC Executive Director  
Crystal Malchose, KAC President

Layout design by Becky Arensdorf

## THE AFTERMATH OF SUCCESS

By Jay Hall, KAC Deputy Director & General Counsel

Success can be fleeting, but repeatable success is what we are seeking.

Recently my wife and I went to the movies to see the most recent release in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), *Thunderbolts\**. My wife and I have gone to MCU movies as a pastime for several years now. The MCU is the largest and most (monetarily) successful movie franchise in history, having grossed over \$31 billion through the years.

Over the last several years, however, the MCU has been criticized. After the box office success of *Avengers: Infinity War* in 2018 and *Avengers: Endgame* in 2019 (the two highest grossing films in MCU history, and two of the seven highest grossing films of all time), recent MCU entries have not been as successful.

But read that again. *Infinity War* and *Endgame* were two of the seven most commercially successful films **of all time**. At the time it was released, *Infinity War* was the fourth most successful film ever. *Endgame* was at one point the most commercially successful film of all time. These two movies came out in back-to-back years from the same studio. The expectation that the MCU would continue to crank out movies that were in the top 10 for most successful films ever was ambitious by any measure.

So, what do you do after you have hit the pinnacle of success? Critics will surely come if you do not follow up with even more success. Just look at the Kansas City Chiefs.

The Chiefs won back-to-back championships, and made it back to play for a third championship, the closest any franchise has ever come in the Super Bowl era to winning three consecutive titles. And then got blown out in the Super Bowl this year. To hear the criticism of the Chiefs, you would think their season, which was more successful than all but one team, was a complete failure.

That's the thing about success. Success invites criticism. It encourages people to challenge you to recreate that success over and over again. That is not something that we should shy away from. In fact, that is something that we should invite.



Does that mean all criticism is a product of success? Of course not. We all understand that failure brings with it a natural amount of critique as well. But the criticism of success and failure is different.

The criticism of success is borne out of expectation. Once you demonstrate that success can be achieved, there is a natural expectation that the success we have seen before will be success that continues.

But how do we ensure that success will actually continue? First, we have to understand what made us successful in the past and determine whether or not that method is repeatable. Part of the success of *Endgame* for example, is that it was the culmination of movies over a 10-year period. Is that repeatable? Certainly. Just not immediately. To repeat that formula, I need another ten years to build to a culmination. I cannot repeat that formula immediately because I need a runway to actually make that happen.

For the Chiefs, is the formula for winning two Super Bowls repeatable? Absolutely. The secret sauce to that success was drafting multiple contributors in the two drafts immediately preceding the run, as well as the draft after the first title. Will that actually happen? That remains to be seen, but the formula is repeatable. It's just a challenge in actually repeating the formula.

Turning to counties, look at the areas where you have been successful and evaluate whether that success is repeatable. Can you keep doing things that have allowed you to succeed in the past, and will those things work in the future?

*continued*

We should always be evaluating whether what we have done in the past will continue to work in the future. Yes, the Chiefs were more successful than 30 franchises during their last season, but the Chiefs have the goal to be more successful than 31 franchises next year, and that means making adjustments to their strategy and roster that build to that goal.

Success is a moving target that requires constant reflection and adaptation. While past achievements can provide a blueprint, true continued success depends on our ability to assess, adjust, and execute with discipline and patience. Whether in film, sports, or governance, the challenge isn't just to succeed once, but to build a foundation that allows success to be sustained and repeated. That foundation is built not only on what worked before, but on the willingness to evolve in pursuit of what could work next. ■

## NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS (NRS)

Contact: Don Regan, Program Director  
 Address: 535 16th St., Suite 320  
 Denver, CO, 80202  
 Phone: 309-660-2917  
 Fax: 855-282-7912  
 Email: [regand2@nationwide.com](mailto:regand2@nationwide.com)



[Nationwide Retirement Solutions](#) (NRS) administers the NACo 457 Deferred Compensation Program for county employees across the U.S. NRS provides education, investments and recordkeeping functions for these plans. Along with the 457 Plan, NRS also administers a 401a Match Plan and the Post Employment Health Plan (PEHP), a plan that provides retiree health care reimbursements, tax free.



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David Luke, Administrator/CEO  
[davidluke@kcamp.org](mailto:davidluke@kcamp.org)  
 (800) 240-9828  
[www.kcamp.org](http://www.kcamp.org)

# STRENGTHENING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: HOW COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CAN SUPPORT LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

*By Randy Bowman, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments*

County commissioners play a vital role in ensuring their communities are prepared for emergencies, and one of their most critical resources in this effort is the local health department. Local health departments are essential in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, particularly when emergencies involve disease outbreaks, environmental hazards, or mass casualty events. To maximize the effectiveness of emergency preparedness efforts, county commissioners must actively support their local health department by providing resources, fostering collaboration, and advocating for policies that enhance public health resilience. Failure to do so can lead to severe consequences, putting lives at risk and weakening the community's ability to respond to crises.

One of the most impactful ways county commissioners can support their local health department is by securing funding for emergency preparedness initiatives. This includes applying for available grants and allocating local budgets for disease surveillance, medical supplies, training programs, and emergency response infrastructure. Without sufficient funding, local health departments may lack essential medical supplies and personnel, leading to delayed or inadequate emergency interventions, preventable deaths, and overwhelmed healthcare facilities.

Local health departments work closely with hospitals, emergency medical services, law enforcement, and disaster response agencies. County commissioners can strengthen these partnerships by fostering regular communication and collaboration among stakeholders. This proactive approach can reduce confusion and inefficiencies during emergencies, which can slow evacuation efforts and disrupt medical care.

Strong public health policies are also essential for emergency preparedness. County commissioners can help prepare for future emergencies by advocating for policies that improve community resilience, such as vaccination programs and environmental safety

measures. Weak policies can result in higher infection rates, increased exposure to hazards, and inadequate emergency response, leading to greater casualties and long-term health consequences.



During emergencies, clear and timely communication is critical. County commissioners can amplify the local health department's messaging by using their platforms to share important updates and dispel misinformation. Without strong public communication, misinformation can spread, leading to panic and poor decision-making, leaving residents unprepared and vulnerable.

After an emergency, local health departments also play a crucial role in recovery, addressing ongoing health concerns such as mental health support and disease prevention. County commissioners can assist by securing funding for recovery programs and ensuring all affected populations receive necessary support. Neglecting recovery efforts can lead to prolonged suffering, economic instability, and lasting health issues, leaving communities vulnerable to future disasters.

By providing funding, fostering collaboration, advocating for public health policies, enhancing communication, and assisting in recovery efforts, county commissioners ensure their communities are equipped to handle emergencies. And by working together, commissioners and health officials can build a safer, more resilient future. ■



## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

By Crystal Malchose, President, KAC Board of Directors

This letter may be a bit different than those you are familiar to reading from the KAC Board President. As an HR Professional I bring a unique viewpoint to the roles we perform, so I am *intending* to help you see the workforce through my eyes.

I am often faced with complaints of discrimination, favoritism, harassment, and more. Part of my role is to investigate and address these concerns. The issue often occurs when there is a dissonance between *intent* and *perception*. As the saying goes, “the road to hell is paved with good intentions.”

The gap between intent and perception is at the heart of so many misunderstandings—whether in relationships, business, politics, or even art. Here I want to address the misunderstandings in relationships at work.

In communication, *intent* is the meaning or purpose behind a message, while *perception* is how that message is received and interpreted by others. Ideally, the two align. But they often diverge, leading to misunderstandings, conflicts, or unintended consequences.

Why do intent and perception clash?

1. Subjectivity of Interpretation - People interpret messages based on their own experiences, biases, and emotions. What is meant as constructive feedback can be perceived as criticism. A joke might be taken as an insult. The sender’s intent may be clear to them, but it doesn’t guarantee the same understanding by the receiver.
2. Nonverbal Cues and Context - Words are just one part of communication. Tone, body language, and context shape perception. A neutral statement can sound aggressive depending on delivery. Likewise, cultural differences influence how intent is understood—what’s polite in one culture may be perceived as rude in another.
3. Emotional and Psychological Factors - People’s emotional states heavily affect perception. If someone is feeling insecure or defensive, they might misinterpret even the most well-meaning

gestures or statements. Similarly, past experiences shape how people perceive new interactions.



### Real-World Examples

1. A manager might intend to motivate an employee with ambitious goals, but the employee may perceive it as unattainable pressure.
2. A celebrity might intend to express support for a cause, but misjudged wording leads to backlash.
3. Someone might express affection through teasing, but the recipient may perceive it as hurtful.

### Bridging the Gap

1. Clarify Intent: When communicating, take extra steps to articulate your meaning and intent.
2. Ask for Feedback: Instead of assuming the message was understood, check in and ask how it was interpreted.
3. Two Sides: The onus for clear communication does not fall only on the messenger. The recipient must accept responsibility for miscommunications as well. Clarify – ask questions, provide examples, share. Instead of assuming the worst – seek to believe the best.

The conflict between intent and perception is an inevitable part of human interaction, but understanding its causes can minimize misinterpretations. Whether in personal conversations or large-scale communication, the ability to bridge the gap is a powerful skill that fosters clarity, trust, and meaningful connections. So, the next time you sense a break-down in communication, seek to find out if intent = perception.

If you would like more information about improving communication within your work environment, consider attending the KCHRA Supervisory Training scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2025. More information is available later in this newsletter, or by e-mailing [kchra.kac@gmail.com](mailto:kchra.kac@gmail.com). ■

# FOUNDATIONS IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT PROGRAM



**Foundations in County Government Program** is KAC's foundational leadership program that is available for **all county employees**, elected as well as appointed, at all levels within any department.

**Ready to Begin? First Step: Program Enrollment.** If you are ready to begin and would like to enroll in the Foundations in County Government certificate program, please email Kimberly Qualls, [qualls@kansascounties.org](mailto:qualls@kansascounties.org) for more information.

**Next Step: Class Enrollment.** Below you will find the current classes scheduled for the program.

## Budgeting & Finance Workshop

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**Date & Time:** Friday, September 19, 2025; 8 AM – 4 PM

**Location:** [Butler County EMS Station, 701 N Haverhill Road, El Dorado, KS, 67042](#) (Parking is available in the front and on the north side of the building.)

**Workshop Fee:** \$100 (Coffee service and lunch included.)

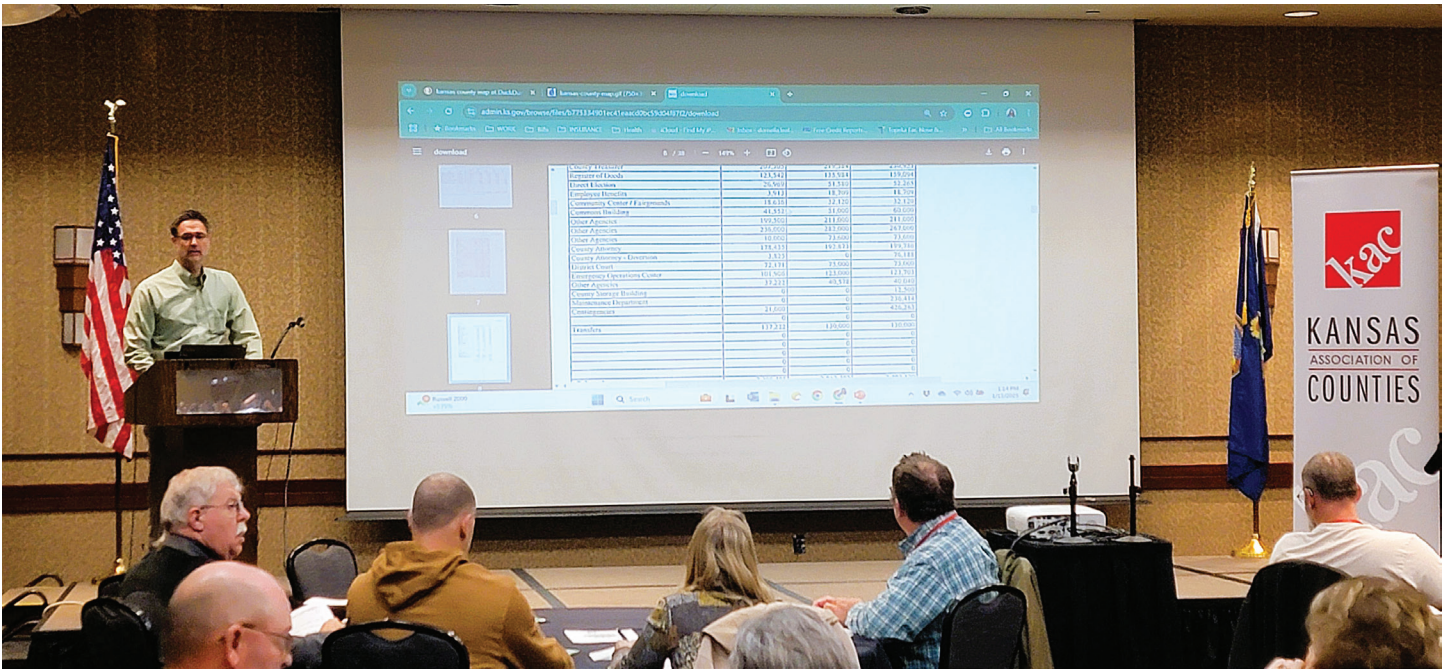
**Instructor:** Ryan Adkison, Butler County Assistant Administrator/Finance Director

Budgeting and Finance is a required role of the county commission as well as other elected officials and staff. The number and scope of county services have expanded in response to intergovernmental mandates and long devolution trends. The dizzying pace of technology innovations promises long-term efficiencies for county operations, but in the short run, requires a significant financial investment. This course defines the role of the county commission as financial policy makers and related roles of citizens, other elected officials, and staff. In addition, this class will address current tips on how to manage the Revenue Neutral Rate (i.e., Truth in Taxation) in your county.

This course will provide in-depth information on how to:

- Establish the legal parameters for the county budget and identify the functions of a capital and annual operating budget;
- Propose processes for preparing, adopting, and managing the budget;
- Explain how county government is financed and suggest techniques for estimating county revenues;
- Identify leadership strategies that contribute to wise, effective, and responsible financial decisions;
- Identify how to challenge county department heads and staff, and outside agencies to the county to use the budget process to think more strategically, more seriously, and more collaboratively about how goals can be accomplished in more creative and cost-effective ways;

- Consider the adequacy of cash balances or reserves, i.e. how much is enough, not enough, or too much, and how cash balances can be managed;
- Evaluate revenue sources other than the property tax to finance county programs and services;
- Consider how the county’s fund structure enables or detracts from the ability of the board of county commissioners to effectively manage the county budget; and
- Learn ways to effectively communicate county budget information to citizens, groups, and the news media.



**Instructor Bio:** Ryan Adkison is the Assistant County Administrator/Finance Director for Butler County. One of his primary duties is crafting the organization’s annual CIP/operating budget, which has won the Government Finance Officers Association’s (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award the past seven years. Ryan received his undergraduate degree from Emporia State University in Political Science, where he played basketball and married his beautiful bride. He received a Master’s of Public Administration from the Hugo Wall School at Wichita State University. Ryan then worked in the Budget Office and Pension Office at the City of Wichita before moving to Butler County. ■

# ROADWORTHY NEWS: SPILL PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND COUNTERMEASURE (SPCC) PLANS FOR KANSAS COUNTIES

By Darryl Lutz, KAC Local Road Engineer

The Kansas County Highway Association (KCHA) held its annual spring conference on May 6-7, 2025, hosted by Ellis County in Hays, Kansas. One of the topics offered as a conference technical session was a presentation on SPCC Plan requirements for Counties. SPCC, which is the acronym for Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures, is a descendant of one of the many water protection measures enacted under the federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, more commonly known as the Clean Water Act of 1972. The Clean Water Act (CWA) was a sweeping re-write and significant expansion of its predecessor federal law known as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948. One of the many measures that came out of the CWA was an authorization for the fairly new agency created around 1970 known as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop regulations for an oil pollution prevention program.

The oil pollution prevention program established under the Clean Water Act has a long and somewhat storied life of rulemaking and supplemental federal legislation. Without getting too deep into the weeds, the set of regulations related to oil pollution prevention under the CWA were first published in 1973 and finalized in 1974. The Oil Pollution Prevention program set forth requirements for prevention of, preparedness for, and response to oil discharges at specific non-transportation-related facilities. The goal of the program was to prevent oil from reaching navigable waters and adjoining shorelines and to contain oil discharges. Over time and in response to a significant oil spill event that occurred in 1988, a major amendment to the oil pollution prevention section of the clean water act was enacted under federal legislation known as the Oil Pollution Prevention Act of 1990.

The 1990 Oil Pollution Act was the result of the work of a special task force formed by the EPA known as the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Task Force. This task force was created to examine federal regulations governing oil spills from aboveground storage tanks following a major oil spill that occurred in Floreffe, Pennsylvania in 1988. The Floreffe oil spill was a man-made oil spill disaster that

occurred following the rupture of a four million gallon above ground oil storage tank owned by Ashland Oil Company. Some of the key recommendations developed by the task force and made to the EPA were to clarify certain provisions of the Oil Pollution Prevention Regulation, establish additional technical standards for regulated facilities, and **require the preparation of facility-specific response plans**. Revisions to the regulations were developed through the 1990's and finalized in 2002. Additional amendments and clarifications followed with the current SPCC rules being finalized in 2010.



The evolution of the Oil Pollution Prevention program resulted in the requirement for certain **regulated facilities** to develop a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan. Most Kansas Counties will have one or more county owned facilities that meet the technical requirements of being a regulated facility. Your county is covered by the SPCC rule if it stores an aggregate quantity of oil of more than 1,320 gallons in above ground containers of 55-gallon capacity or more, or in underground storage with of capacity of greater than 42,000 gallons **and** if there is a reasonable expectation of an oil discharge to navigable waters of the U.S. or adjoining shorelines. Virtually anywhere in the United States, anything that hits the ground has the potential of reaching a navigable water or its adjoining shoreline. Essentially, any facility that stores, refines, uses, or consumes oil and is non-transportation related that meets the aggregate storage limits are subject to the SPCC rule. For clarification, a non-transportation related facility is a facility not solely regulated by the DOT such as interstate or inter-facility oil pipeline systems, oil transported by shipping vessels or oil transported by rail car or tanker truck. Based on this definition, county facilities such as highway maintenance shops are considered non-transportation-related facilities.

The term "oil" is very broad and includes oil of any type and in any form. It includes all petroleum-based oils as well as oil derived from animal fats, vegetables,

*continued*

## Counted (>55 gal)



seeds, or nuts. In the case of County operations, the typical covered oils would include diesel fuel, gasoline, motor oils, hydraulic oils, synthetic oils, kerosene, used oil, fuel oil, and asphalts (including emulsified and cutback asphalts and asphalt cements). Depending upon your specific operations, there may be other covered oils not listed above.

SPCC rules include requirements for determining the capacity for oil storage at your facility. The oil storage capacity for a facility is based upon the aggregate storage capacity of all containers with a capacity of 55-gallons or more. The capacity of an oil storage container is determined by the shell capacity (maximum volume) of the container, not the actual volume being stored in the container. In other words, a 55-gallon drum that is used to store only 30 gallons of oil is considered as having a 55-gallon capacity or a 5,000-gallon fuel tank set with an overfill protection system set at 4,500 gallons is considered a 5,000-gallon tank when calculating the aggregate storage capacity of a facility.

What does all this mean for counties? It means that if you meet the requirements of a covered facility, you are required to adopt procedures and take measures to prevent oil spills and to prepare and implement a written SPCC Plan. Typical prevention measures start with using containers specifically designed or intended for storage of oil or oil products being stored in the container. Other measures include overfill protection devices or high-level alarms for oil storage and providing secondary containment such as earthen dikes or concrete retaining walls to hold the maximum

tank size plus design rainfall. Double wall tanks can be used in lieu of secondary containment. Prevention also includes general secondary containment (which could simply be deployable containment devices) to capture the most likely spill at the transfer connection points for moving product between oil storage containers and at fill connection ports with mobile refuelers and tanker trucks. Another key spill prevention measure includes regular inspections and/or testing of piping, fittings, valves, control devices, tank shells, support structures, and containment systems.

The second part of the requirements for covered facilities is to prepare and implement an SPCC Plan. The SPCC plan describes all the various oil handling operations of the facility, identifies discharge and drainage controls and includes the personnel, equipment and resources at the facility used to prevent oil spills from reaching navigable waters. These plans should also include procedures for reporting spills and managing cleanup of spills. The plans will also include templates and schedules for conducting any inspections identified in the plan. These plans are required to be facility specific but include certain elements required in all plans that specifically identify **Spill Prevention** measures; **Control** measures to prevent spills from entering navigable waters; and **Countermeasures** to be taken to contain, clean up and mitigate the effects of an oil spill that has impacted navigable

### Important Elements of an SPCC Plan:

- Facility diagram and description of the facility
- Oil discharge predictions
- Appropriate secondary containment or diversionary structures
- Facility drainage
- Site security
- Facility inspections
- Requirements for bulk storage containers including inspections, overfill, and integrity testing requirements
- Transfer procedures and equipment (including piping)
- Requirements for qualified oil-filled operational equipment
- Loading/unloading rack requirements and procedures for tank cars and tank trucks
- Brittle fracture evaluations for aboveground field constructed containers
- Personnel training and oil discharge prevention briefings
- Recordkeeping requirements
- Five-year Plan review
- Management approval
- Plan certification (by a Professional Engineer (PE) or in certain cases by the facility owner/operator)

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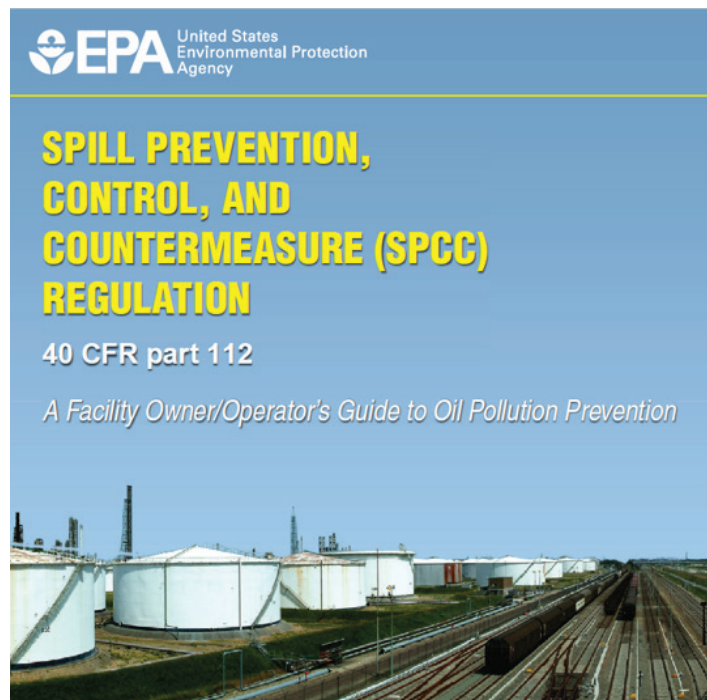
waters. These plans are required to be prepared by a licensed Professional Engineer in accordance with good engineering practices unless the facility can and chooses to self-certify their Plan.

The option of self-certification of an SPCC plan is based upon a facility meeting two primary criteria. The first criterion is that the facility must have an aggregate storage capacity of 10,000 gallons or less and the second criterion is that within the three-year period preceding the date of certification of the plan the covered facility has had no single discharge of oil to navigable waters exceeding 1,000 gallons or no two discharges of oil to navigable waters exceeding 42 gallons within any 12-month period. Facilities that meet both criteria and have no single above ground storage container exceeding 5,000-gallons capacity can self-certify using a simplified template found in Appendix G of the federal regulation. Facilities meeting both criteria and having any single above ground storage container exceeding 5,000 gallons capacity must meet the standard plan requirements except for the Engineer certification.

SPCC plans are intended to be living documents. Once the facility SPCC Plan has been written and certified, the plan must be acknowledged and signed by the facility owner. A copy of the plan does not need to be submitted to the EPA unless a reportable spill occurs or unless requested. Otherwise, a copy of the written plan must be kept on-site at any facility if occupied at least four hours a day or at the nearest office location for the facility if occupied for less than four hours a day. The operator in charge at the facility needs to read and be familiar with the plan and to review the plan at least annually. To ensure compliance with all spill prevention measures, the facility operator should provide training on the facility plan with employees regularly involved with handling oil storage and transfer at the facility. The plan is required to be reviewed and recertified at least every five years for compliance with current regulations and sooner if a material change has occurred within the five-year period. A material change might include such things as the relocation or replacement of an oil storage tank, modification of facility drainage controls or changes in procedures for handling or storage of oil products.

Enforcement of SPCC rules in Kansas is by the EPA. Do not be confused, though. If your county facility has any above ground tanks with a capacity of 660 gallons or more for fuel or oil storage, those tanks must

be registered annually with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). However, the KDHE has not been authorized by the EPA to regulate spill prevention programs and plans. Be assured however, that if your facility has tanks registered with the KDHE, your facility is most certainly on a list of potential facilities to be inspected by the EPA for compliance with SPCC regulations. You know not when the EPA will show up at your facility for an inspection, but it will most likely happen as a random event or as a result of a reported oil spill.



The information provided in this article highlights the general applicability and requirements under the federal SPCC regulations. It's important, however, that your county relies upon the guidance and expertise of an engineer or technical expert to determine if your facility is a covered facility and in compliance with the regulations. If you have had turnover in your County Public Works or Road and Bridge Department leadership, this might be a good time to see if your county is current on its SPCC plan and spill prevention procedures for each covered facility. If you want to learn more about SPCC Plan requirements, the EPA has published a very handy brochure entitled *Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Regulation, 40 CFR part 112, A Facility Owner/Operator's Guide to Oil Pollution Prevention*. If you are so inclined, read the entire regulation by requesting a copy of the regulation from the EPA or by downloading a copy of the regulation found under 40 CFR part 112. ■

## CONNECTING KANSAS COUNTIES



On Friday, May 2, 2025, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the completion of a \$14.3 million renovation project for the Shawnee County Courthouse in Topeka. The 60-year-old Courthouse needed a lot of work done and Shawnee County used ARPA funds to provide this important building with another 60 years of life. Shawnee County Commission Chair and KAC Governing Board Member Aaron Mays addressed the attendees and media outside the Courthouse's front doors.

On April 17, KAC Deputy Director and General Counsel Jay Hall delivers a legislative update to highway officials and county commissioners at the Southeast District 4 meeting in Chanute, KS.



KAC Local Road Engineer Darryl Lutz presented a transportation update at the North Central Kansas District 2 Meeting on April 2 in Salina, KS.

## CONNECTING KANSAS COUNTIES



KAC Executive Director Bruce Chladny (foreground on left), county commissioners, highway officials and other attendees listen to the presentations at the Southeast Kansas District 4 meeting.

Marvin Matchett, Norton County Commission Chair and KAC Governing Board Member, leads a discussion with state and federal official representatives at the Little KAC meeting held on the Colby County Community College campus in Colby, KS, on April 9.



County officials and staff at the Little KAC meeting participate in a discussion with elected leaders before enjoying a catered lunch followed by small group discussions with their peers.

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## CONNECTING KANSAS COUNTIES



Geary County Human Resources Director and KAC President Crystal Malchose presents a current grant opportunity to the Geary County Commission at a recent commission meeting

On March 24, KAC Local Road Engineer Darryl Lutz presented a transportation update at the Dickinson County Township meeting held at Sterl Hall in Abilene, KS.



KAC Local Road Engineer Darry Lutz (right) and Dickinson County Public Works Director Martin Tannahill (left) posed for a quick photo at the March 24 Dickinson County Township meeting in Abilene, KS.

## CONNECTING KANSAS COUNTIES



Bill Noll, Leavenworth County Public Works Director, presented a Leavenworth County Department of Public Works update at the Northeast Kansas County Highway Officials meeting held at the J.W. Crancers Event Center in Leavenworth, KS, on April 1.

County officials and staff along with other attendees listen to Bill Noll's Leavenworth County Department of Public Works presentation at the April 1 Northeast Kansas District 1 meeting.



Kimberly Marotta with KDOT Bureau of Local Projects, provides a Kansas Department of Transportation update at the April 1 Northeast Kansas District 1 meeting.

## CONNECTING KANSAS COUNTIES



Nelda Buckley, Kansas LTAP Local Road Liaison, shares her LTAP presentation with county attendees at the April 1 Northeast Kansas District 1 meeting.

KAC Local Road Engineer Darryl Lutz shares a transportation update at the April 1 Northeast Kansas District 1 meeting.



Selfie photo taken by presenter Nelda Buckley, Kansas LTAP Local Road Liaison, at the South Central Kansas Association of Commissioners and Engineers meeting at the Stafford County Courthouse Annex in St. John, KS, on April 3. KAC Local Road Engineer Darryl Lutz also presented a transportation update at the meeting.



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## CONNECTING KANSAS COUNTIES



KAC Executive Director Bruce Chladny presented a KAC update to county officials and staff at the Little KAC meeting held on April 9 at the Frahm Theater in Colby, KS.



On April 21, Mike Taylor, KCCA Lobbyist/Strategy Consultants, led KAC's Foundations in County Government pre-conference workshop: Serving the Public: "It's a Tough Job But Somebody's Gotta Do It | A Day of Tips & Techniques for Serving Your County with Excellence" to 63 Kansas county commissioners and county staff held in conjunction with the 2025 Kansas County Commissioners Association Conference & Expo at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center in Manhattan, KS.

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# CONNECTING KANSAS COUNTIES



KAC Local Road Engineer Darryl Lutz presented two sessions: “Eggs & Issues” and “Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Plans with Darryl” at the 2025 Kansas County Highway Association (KCHA) Annual Conference & Expo, May 5-7 in Hays | Ellis County, KS.

Alvin Perez, 2025 KCHA KAC Representative (left) and Brendan MacKay, 2025 KCHA President (right) presented John Ellermann (center), Riley County Public Works Director | County Engineer, with the 2025 Kansas County Highway Association Highway Official of the Year award at the 2025 KCHA Annual Conference and Expo on Tuesday, May 6 in Hays | Ellis County, KS.



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## CONNECTING KANSAS COUNTIES



KAC Deputy Director and General Counsel Jay Hall (left) and KCCA Lobbyist Mike Taylor (right) present a recap of the 2025 Kansas Legislative Session to over 80 Kansas county commissioners and county staff attendees at the 2025 Kansas County Commissioners Association (KCCA) Conference & Expo on April 22-24 in Manhattan | Riley County, KS.



On April 22, KCCA President Dan Woydziak (at podium) kicks off the 2025 49th Annual Kansas County Commissioners Association Conference & Expo with welcome greetings from host county, Riley County Commissioner Chairman Greg McKinley (seated right) and City of Manhattan Mayor Karen McCulloh (seated left) at the Manhattan Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center. Over 80 Kansas county commissioners and county staff, along with 14 sponsor exhibitors attended this year's conference and expo event.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT JOB OPENINGS

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### Ness County – County Road/Landfill Supervisor

Ness County is seeking dedicated and experienced County Road/Landfill Supervisor to join our Public Works Department. This leadership role is responsible for overseeing maintenance/operations of county roads, managing landfill and maintaining compliance with local, state and federal regulations.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- Supervise road maintenance crews/landfill staff
- Plan, coordinate, and monitor maintenance/construction of county roads
- Ensure safe, efficient operation of the landfill facility
- Maintain compliance with environmental regulations and reporting
- Manage budgets, equipment, and materials for road/landfill operations
- Conduct inspections and respond to public service requests or complaints
- Coordinate with engineers, contractors, and government agencies

#### Qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent; advanced training or technical certifications in public works, construction, or environmental services preferred
- Minimum 3-5 years of experience in road maintenance, landfill operations, or similar field
- Strong leadership, communication, and organizational skills
- Valid driver's license; CDL (Commercial Driver's License) required

Ness County offers excellent benefits – Medical & Dental Insurance, KPERS Retirement, Life Insurance, paid vacation, and sick leave. Salary dependent on experience and skills.

Obtain applications at Ness County Clerk's Office, 202 W Sycamore, Ness City, KS, or call Ness County Clerk's Office at (785) 798-2401. Applications accepted until position is filled. Ness County is at-will, EOE.

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### Saline County – Attorney

Represent the State of Kansas as trial attorney in felony, misdemeanor, and traffic cases. Represent the petitioner in mental illness, and alcoholic commitment cases. Research and write appellate briefs and present oral arguments.

#### Minimum Qualifications:

1. Graduation from a college or university with a four-year bachelor-level degree.
2. Graduation from an American Bar Association-accredited school of law with a Juris Doctor or equivalent degree.
3. Admitted to practice law before the Kansas Supreme Court and all inferior courts of the State of Kansas. Admitted to practice law before the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas.

#### Desirable Qualifications:

1. Two years of experience in the practice of law, preferably as a trial lawyer in criminal law.
2. Must have excellent oral and written communication skills.
3. An ability to interact with other law enforcement agencies, social welfare agencies and public service organizations.

4. Must have a valid Driver's License and be insurable under Saline County fleet insurance policy.

**Salary Information:**

Anticipated starting salary: \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00 – Depending on Qualifications.

\$5,000.00 hiring incentive dispersed immediately upon hire.

\$5,000 hiring incentive at 6 months of successful and satisfactory employment.

**\*\*New graduates will be considered\*\***

**Our Total Compensation Package:**

- Enjoy a generous base salary that reflects your skills, experience and industry standards.
- Experience job security and regular salary increases.
- Comprehensive Benefits where your well-being matters to us with a package that includes health and dental insurance, and a health savings account for your future.
- A Retirement Plan for you to plan for your future.
- Generous paid leave that allows you to relax and recharge.
- Experience Career Advancements, growth and development with various training and learning opportunities to enhance your skills.

Applicant must apply on our website, by clicking the following link: [Saline County](#)

**Saline County – Deputy County Attorney**

Represent the State of Kansas as trial attorney in felony cases. Research and write appellate briefs and present oral arguments. Review and approve search warrants and submit them to the on-call judge for signature; Respond to major crime scenes and traffic fatalities as directed by the County Attorney or requested by law enforcement. Review affidavits for probable cause, prepare bond forms and present them to on-call judge. Provide advice, assistance and guidance to staff attorneys as requested. Assume the duties of the County Attorney as assigned by and in the absence of the County Attorney.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

1. Graduation from a college or university with a four-year bachelor-level degree.
2. Graduation from an American Bar Association-accredited school of law with a Juris Doctor or equivalent degree.
3. Admitted to practice law before the Kansas Supreme Court and all inferior courts of the State of Kansas. Admitted to practice law before the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas.
4. Must have a valid Driver's License and be insurable under Saline County fleet insurance policy.

**Desirable Qualifications:**

1. Five (5) years' experience acceptable; 10 years preferred in the practice of law as a trial lawyer in criminal law.
2. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
3. Ability to interact with other law enforcement agencies, social welfare agencies, and public service organizations.

### Salary Information:

Anticipated starting salary: \$93,430 to \$126,465 – Depending on Qualifications.

\$5,000 hiring incentive dispersed immediately upon hire.

\$5,000 hiring incentive at 6 months of successful and satisfactory employment.

### Our Total Compensation Package:

- Enjoy a generous base salary that reflects your skills, experience and industry standards.
- Experience job security and regular salary increases.
- Comprehensive Benefits where your well-being matters to us with a package that includes health and dental insurance, and a health savings account for your future.
- A Retirement Plan for you to plan for your future.
- Generous paid leave that allows you to relax and recharge.
- Experience Career Advancements, growth and development with various training and learning opportunities to enhance your skills.

Applicant must apply on our website, by clicking the following link: [Saline County](#)

## Looking for the right candidates? LET US HELP.

Your job opening will be included in the monthly County Comment and weekly Kansas County Happenings e-newsletters and posted on KAC's website.

**Rates:** Up to 75 words \$65; 76-150 words \$95; more than 150 words \$120.

**Contact:** Kimberly Qualls at [qualls@kansascountries.org](mailto:qualls@kansascountries.org) or 785.213.4717.



# Saving feels better.



The National Association of Counties (NACo) has enhanced the Live Healthy Discount Program to deliver greater healthcare savings to county residents at **NO COST** to the county.

## No-cost Prescription Discount Program.

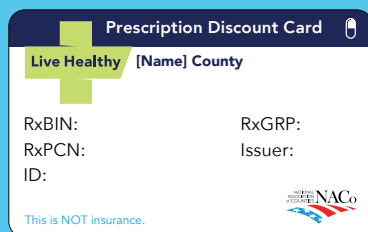
- **Save up to 80%\*** on generics and **up to 40%\*** on brand-name prescription medications for residents and their pets

## Low-fee health discounts nationwide.

- Provides 24/7 telemedicine service and **save 15% to 75%** on vision services, hearing aids and screenings, diabetes supplies, prepaid lab work and more

## Low-fee dental discounts nationwide.

- Save **15% to 50%** on check-ups, cleanings, fillings, crowns, x-rays, root canals and more at over 110,000 participating providers



To learn more and enroll your county,  
visit [NACo.org/Health](https://www.naco.org/Health)

\*This is not insurance. Savings may vary by drug and by pharmacy. The Prescription Discount Card is operated by CVS Caremark®. The Discount Medical Organization for NACo Health and Dental Discounts is Alliance HealthCard of Florida, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2022 CVS Caremark

