



Kingman County Commission

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Kingman EMT April Lord explains how an automated external defibrillator (AED) works during a recent CPR/first aid class for county employees.

Safety a priority for Kingman County

By Nancy D. Borst

Kingman County Communications Coordinator

Safety is important to Kingman County, not only for county employees, but also for members of the public who visit county buildings such as the courthouse.

An active safety committee comprised of county employees meets monthly to monitor safety and organize training events. The committee works cooperatively with the county commissioners to promote a safe workplace.

For example, more than three-quarters of the county's employees have had training in basic first aid, use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) and CPR. There is one AED for use in the courthouse. This device is used in cases of sudden cardiac arrest and can literally save lives.

Employees also recently went through training on what to do if there is an active shooter in a county building. Other training has included fire extinguisher school, how to handle blood

borne pathogens, safe driver school, regular tornado and fire drills, and mental health first aid. The last is a relatively new type of first aid skill.

“The county has made safety a priority not only for employees but for the public,” said employee Steve Ramsey, a safety committee member and the county’s community service director. “In any situation, any employee could find himself or herself in charge initially (until help arrives).”

All training and drills include a component on how to assist the public, whether that assistance is helping them take shelter in the courthouse during a tornado warning or helping during an emergency such as an active shooter.

The system developed by the county for dealing with blood borne pathogens has been copied and put into practice by other jurisdictions. It consists of a specially equipped bucket to handle and dispose of biohazard spills safely, along with written instructions on universal precautions and appropriate clean up. The procedure has been used several times at the courthouse.

Accidents are reviewed by the safety committee, which works to eliminate as many risks as possible. This attention has kept the number of accidents down, Ramsey said, which is good for everyone.

Ramsey noted that most county employees also are trained in NIMS, the National Incident Management System. NIMS uses standardized, coordinated and systematic methods to manage incidents such as public emergencies or disasters. Having such training means a more efficient and effective response.

An added benefit to the training county employees receive is that it gives them important skills to carry over into their personal lives, allowing them to assist others in times of crisis no matter where an emergency occurs.

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