

Adult Development and Aging News Column

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Wildcat Extension

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Would emergency personnel know what medications you take if you were unable to speak? Would they know who to contact to let them know you were in an accident or even what your name is? Operation Red File can help provide this much-needed information to emergency personnel in case of an emergency.

Operation Red File in Crawford County is under way. On April 22, Wildcat Extension District and Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) will kick off Operation Red File, Crawford County at the KOAM Health and Wellness Fair held at PSU's Plaster Center.

Operation Red File is designed to help community members keep their critical health information accessible if needed in an emergency. It allows vulnerable individuals, the elderly and disabled, to keep copies of key medical records handy in case of an emergency. Operation Red File makes those records instantly available to first responders.

Participants in Operation Red File receive a large, red, magnetic folder that they can place on their refrigerators for instant access, where first responders will know to look for it. Participants can put copies of their medical information and other critical documents in the folder, such as a clear, current photograph of the participant; a medical form with all current medical information; a medication list that can be updated as needed; medical coverage information and K-State Research and Extension's Advance Health Care Planning in Kansas documents.

First responders and emergency staff can use this information to:

- Instantly access medical history and medication records in an emergency
- Avoid delays caused by trying to get information from a confused patient
- Ensure that family/responsible party will be notified quickly
- Have a photograph available in the case of a Silver Alert
- Communicate advance directive wishes

Sponsors for Operation Red File, Crawford County include Wesley House, KOAM/FOX-14, Wildcat Extension District, KDADS and Crawford County Health Department. We will start with 600 files to distribute.

Plans are already underway to bring Operation Red File to Labette and Montgomery Counties as well. Additional sponsors are needed.

For more information or to sponsor Operation Red File contact Chuckie Hessong, Adult Development and Aging Agent in our Girard office at (620) 724-8233. Visit our website www.wildcatdistrict.ksu.edu.