

CHAPTER 2: COUNTY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

EMERGENCY SERVICES

MARION COUNTY SHERIFF

The Marion County Sheriff's Office is responsible for not only maintaining public security throughout the county, but also operates and manages the Marion County Jail and Emergency Notification System.

The Sheriff's office is also responsible for courtroom security, and for serving criminal warrants and civil summonses, including eviction notices and restraining orders. The Marion County Jail serves as a prison facility for the County and other smaller towns surrounding Marion, as well as housing inmates awaiting transfer to other prisons, jails and State penitentiaries.

MARION COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Marion County EMS Department was established in 1972 and currently includes nine response sites throughout the County to provide the best coverage possible. Staffed with approximately 80 volunteer responders, this service responds to calls 24 hours a day in addition to providing educational classes for County residents. The response sites are as follows:

- City of Florence - Ambulance & Rescue Truck
- City of Hillsboro - Ambulance
- City of Marion - Ambulance & Rescue Truck
- City of Peabody - Ambulance
- City of Tampa - Ambulance
- City of Lincolnvile - First Responder
- City of Burns - First Responder
- City of Goessel - First Responder
- City of Durham - First Responder

MARION COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The mission of Marion County Emergency Management is "to provide for the protection of life and property by assisting its citizens to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and prevent or reduce the effects of a disaster - whether it is natural or man-made."

Local Emergency Management department coordinate with local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as volunteer organizations and businesses, to respond in the most efficient manner during times of disaster. Marion County Emergency Management uses the County-Wide Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan as their guide, which incorporates all resources within the county, as well as those made available through mutual aid agreements with other counties, and those resources available from the State or Federal Governments. The assistance given by Emergency Management falls to four main categories: Mitigation, Preparation, Response, and Recovery.

The Emergency Management staff consists of one full-time employee, but is supported by hundreds of professional emergency responders throughout the region. Additionally, the Marion County Emergency Management Agency assists and helps coordinate the activities, training and emergency exercises of local organizations.

MARION COUNTY FIRE SERVICE

Marion County fire protection is comprised of volunteer Fire Departments within each community in the County. In addition to the capabilities of the various department, there are four primary rescue teams in Marion County as well. First responder agreements are in place to allow County dispatcher to direct the closest departments to respond.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

One of the largest and most important of rural County functions, the Road and Bridge Department in Marion County is no different. The Marion County Road and Bridge Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of over 1,600 miles of roads and 300 bridges throughout the County. The department is responsible for the County's continuous maintenance programs as well as overseeing the reconstruction of major roadways. The department also provides ditch and culvert repair, and assists with utility relocations as necessary.

MARION COUNTY SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Marion County Sanitation and Environmental Health Department provides for the enforcement of public health laws, local regulations, and environmental codes; provide consultation and permits for water wells and sewage disposal; investigation of public health complaints and records maintenance.

The Marion County Environmental Health Department offers water screening for private water supplies. The water screening service investigates nitrate levels and bacteria concentrations to ensure the safe supply of water throughout the County. The department also conducts field inspections of wastewater systems to evaluate health risks and violations of current state and/or local regulations.

MARION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Marion County Health Department offers a wide range of services to Marion County residents to improve the quality of life through environmental and community health nursing. The goal of the Health Department is to provide services necessary to allow Marion County residents the opportunity to enjoy good health in a healthy environment. The clinics operate in various locations throughout the County offering a variety of professional services, and provides necessary preventive health services to all Marion County residents. The professional staff includes a Physician Consultant, Administrator, Registered Nurses, Registered Dietician, a Healthy Start Home Visitor, as well as support staff.

MARION COUNTY TRANSFER STATION

The Marion County Transfer Station is open to the public six days a week. The facility accepts municipal solid waste, construction and demolition wastes, white goods (i.e. appliances), tires, and other pre-approved materials before it is transported to the Waste Management landfill near Topeka. Yard waste and other materials considered "hazardous waste" is not accepted.

Marion County also sponsors a county-wide recycling program with collection sites in Goessel, Durham, Florence, Centre High School, Tampa, Burns, Marion.

NOXIOUS WEED OFFICE & HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY

This County department is charged with enforcing the State Noxious Weed Law within Marion County as well as providing a collection site for the environmentally safe disposal of household hazardous waste.

The Marion County Household Hazardous Waste facility is located in the City of Marion and is open every Friday to receive Household Hazardous Waste. Household Hazardous Waste can also be dropped off on other days by appointment. The County also provides a Mobile Collection Unit, which is collects waste at other cities in the county on regularly scheduled days in both spring and fall.

COUNTY RECREATION

MARION LAKE

The Marion Lake (formerly known as Marion Reservoir) is operated by both the State of Kansas and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Marion Reservoir was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1950. The project was designed and built under the supervision of the Tulsa District, Corps of Engineers at a cost of \$13,600,000. Construction began in March 1964, and the project was placed in full flood control operation in February 1968. The lake is one of three projects constructed for flood

management and low-flow regulation for the upper Grand (Neosho) River Valley. The other projects are John Redmond Dam and Reservoir and Council Grove Lake.

As with many lakes throughout the region, Marion Lake is often impacted by seasonal blue-green algae blooms which limit the recreational element of the facility as well as the quality of drinking water the reservoir provides. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has issued many Public Health Warnings, and the US Army Corps of Engineers has closed the lake due to this health risk.

Additional information on Marion Lake and its benefits to the County is provided in the next chapter

MARION COUNTY PARK AND LAKE

The Marion County Lake is operated by the County of Marion, and provides county residents a wide variety of recreational opportunities, such as fishing, water sports, wildlife viewing, and camping.

Marion County Park and Lake is the result of two federal New Deal programs that were born during the 1920s depression. The Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) and Work's Progress Administration's goals were to put men to work and conserve our natural resources. The idea for the Marion County Park and Lake started in 1933 and was officially opened in the spring of 1941. After reviewing plans for an appropriate location, construction of the lake moved forward in 1936 with a 300-man C.C.C. camp moved in to start work. Marion County furnished materials, site and construction inspection; the federal government furnished labor, equipment and supervision.

The park area includes approximately 300 acres, with water depth in the 153-acre lake ranging up to 40 feet. Some 275 homes and cottages have been built, with more under construction. There are 235 permanent residents and provides a trailer park and camping grounds. The lake is served by a four miles of paved road, plus several miles of rock inlet roads, providing access to every part of the park and lake area.

MARION COUNTY DEPARTMENT ON AGING

The Marion County Department on Aging provides information, support and advocacy to County residents 60 years of age and older, their family and caregivers, as well as promote independence and improve the quality of life for older adults.

The department supports and encourages healthy independent living, by offering Medicare counseling, transportation, social services, a wellness program, and tax services. In 1979 the department was created to administrate Mill Levy funds among the eleven senior centers with the approval of a 12-Member Board and County Commissioners, in addition to providing matching funds for the Senior Care Act Program administrated by North Central Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging.

Senior centers are located throughout Marion County and provide a variety of services, programs, fellowship, meals and information. The county has three nutritional sites: Hillsboro, Marion and Peabody which provide a noon meal Monday-Friday plus meals on wheels and frozen meals for the weekend. The county also has four senior centers: Burns, Durham, Lincolnville, and Tampa which meet once a month.

MARION COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Marion County Economic Development Department administers a micro-loan program designed to assist low- to moderate-income small business owners by providing loans and technical assistance to establish or expand businesses in the County. These loan funds can be used for business activities such as advertising, expansion, equipment, general working capital, increasing inventory, and start-up equipment. Loans range in size up to \$15,000 for existing or start-up businesses.

The department also assists with the County's Neighborhood Revitalization Program, which provides a tax rebate on property taxes for qualified rehabilitation, alteration, addition, or new construction project.

