



BRINE WELL SINKHOLE INITIAL RESPONSE CHECKLIST

If a sinkhole develops, the following actions should be taken. This purpose of this document is to provide a checklist so that actions that should be taken are not overlooked. This listing of actions is not necessarily the sequence for taking action. The sequence of actions taken will be determined by nature and dynamics the situation.

✓ Obtain the following information:	Obtained
• Location of sinkhole (Section -Township - Range- County	
• GPS Coordinates	
• address)	
• Sinkhole description: estimated dimensions of sinkhole	
• cause if known	
• Location relative to buildings	
• roads utilities	
• location on property	

Contact the local public safety agency (Website for list of County Emergency Managers is <http://www.kansastag.gov/kdem.asp?PageID=200>). Establish an Incident Command System as soon as possible.

	Date and Time Contacted
• City Police/ Emergency Personnel	
• County Sheriff/Emergency Management Personnel	
• State Highway Department	

- ✓ If a residence or other occupied structure is in danger, the local public safety agency will evacuate the occupants. The evacuated occupants may need sheltering. The local American Red Cross can be contacted for assistance with this.
- ✓ Assume the sinkhole is enlarging. Sinkholes often enlarge significantly from the initial development before stabilizing. Keep people away from the sinkhole and potential impact area. Prevent access to the sinkhole, including securing the sinkhole with a fence or barrier if feasible and install signs warning of the danger. Obtain assistance from local law enforcement or emergency personnel to accomplish this.
- ✓ Have the public safety agency divert vehicular/train traffic away from the sinkhole.

- ✓ Contact the appropriate entity responsible for maintenance of the transportation artery. Responsible entities could be one or more of the following depending upon the type of transportation artery.

Date and Time Contacted

• City public works department.	
• Township Road department.	
• County Road Department.	
• Kansas Department of Transportation.	
• Railroad owner/operator.	

- ✓ Contact the local utilities. Kansas One-Call at telephone number 811 may be helpful for this.

Date and Time Contacted

• Gas	
• Electric	
• Water & Sewer	
• Telephone	

- ✓ Determine ownership of the property.

Ownership

• Private owner	
• City Property	
• County Property	
• State Property	

- ✓ Secure permission to access the site – obtain Right of Entry.
- ✓ Determine the responsible party for the sinkhole and contact them for their appropriate action and response.
- ✓ Prevent storm water run-off from entering the sinkhole if feasible. This can include the construction of diversion ditches and/or diversion ditches.
- ✓ As soon as possible contact the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, at (785) 296-5560 or (785) 291.3333. KDHE will then contact the following agencies.

Date and Time Contacted

• Ground Water Management District if located within a GMD.	
• Kansas Geological Survey (785) 864-3965	
• Kansas Corporation Commission – Oil and Gas Well Related (316) 337-6200	
• Mine Safety and Health Administration – Underground Rock Mine 1-800-476-1553	

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