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FOR
IMMEDIATE RELEASE
8/21/2009

KANSAS HOSTS COURSE FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS, DEAF PEOPLE

Silver Spring, Md. – The Community Emergency Preparedness Information Network (CEPIN) will offer the “Emergency Responder and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community: Taking the First Steps to Disaster Preparedness” training on September 18, 2009 in Olathe, KS to a group of local emergency responders, managers and planners and Deaf and Hard of Hearing consumers. The goal of the course is to encourage networking, preparation and communication between the two communities prior to disaster situations.

This training is being provided through an agreement with the Rural Domestic Preparedness Training Center at Eastern Kentucky University. This agreement allows CEPIN to present its unique and vital workshop to small and mid-sized communities across the country.

"The training will educate emergency responders and planners on the various types of communication preferences and on how to determine the most appropriate accommodation," said **Neil McDevitt**, Program Director for CEPIN. "Deaf and Hard of

Hearing consumers will identify tools in working with emergency responders in order to develop comprehensive disaster preparedness efforts at the local and state level.”

The host agency for the training is the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the point of contact is Rebecca Rosenthal, who can be reached at Rebecca.rosenthal@srs.ks.gov.

Course details:

DATE: Friday, September 18, 2009

TIME: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

**LOCATION: Johnson County Administrative Building, Room 201
111 South Cherry Street
Olathe, KS 66061**

About CEPIN: The CEPIN Project is coordinated by Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has awarded TDI nearly \$3 million to develop model community education programs for emergency responders and special needs populations. For more information about CEPIN, visit www.cepintdi.org. You can also follow us on twitter at www.twitter.com/cepin.

About TDI: TDI is a membership organization that promotes equal access to telecommunications, media, and information technology for 31 million Americans who are deaf and hard of hearing. TDI educates and encourages consumer involvement regarding legal rights regarding access to technology; provides technical assistance and consultation to industry, associations, and individuals; encourages accessible applications of existing and emerging technologies in all sectors of the community; advises on and promotes the uniformity of standards for technologies; works in collaboration with other deaf and disability organizations, government, industry, and academia; develops and advocates national policies that support accessibility issues; and publishes *TDI World*

quarterly magazine, *TDI Briefs* newsletter, and the annual *TDI National Directory & Resource Guide* or the *Blue Book*. For more information or to become a member or subscriber, go to www.tdi-online.org.

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