

# ***Kansas Agricultural Emergency Response Corps (KAERC)***

## **Code of Conduct**

KAERC volunteers must abide by a uniform code of conduct and act in a safe, professional, and timely manner when activated to respond to an agricultural emergency. KAERC members shall be expected to employ the following principles at all times while affiliated with the KAERC program:

### **Professionalism**

- KAERC items identified as belonging to or associated with the KDA or KAERC by logo, identification credential, and any other official article of clothing or equipment will be maintained in good working condition and must be stored in a place that will prevent such items from being used by unaffiliated persons.
- KAERC members will not use their membership in this program or their identification items to gain favors or preferential treatment or to influence others for any purpose other than engagement in authorized emergency response activities.
- KAERC members may not authorize the use of the name, logo, endorsement, services, or property of the KAERC program for persons or organizations not affiliated with the program.

### **Coordination**

- KAERC volunteers will not self-deploy or self-report to an incident site without prior activation from the KAERC program staff or KDA Incident Management Team.

### **Volunteer Safety**

- KAERC members will only undertake activities that are within their physical capabilities and within the scope of their training. They must not take risks that are likely to cause injury to themselves or others.
- KAERC volunteers will follow the chain of command prescribed as part of the National Incident Management System Incident Command Structure.
- KAERC members will not use any alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or over-the-counter medications that may impair their judgment while involved with KAERC program activities, including trainings, exercises, meetings, special events, and emergency responses.

### **Violations**

Violations of this Code of Conduct must be reported to the KAERC program manager. At the discretion of the KAERC Program Manager or the Secretary of Agriculture, the offending KAERC member may be:

- Temporarily suspended from KAERC volunteer duties or, if activated as a part-time, temporary state employee, temporarily suspended without pay;
- Subject to a probationary period while infractions are corrected;
- Terminated from service as a KAERC volunteer or, if activated as a part-time, temporary state employee, terminated from state employment.

### **Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name), do certify that I will abide by the above code of conduct. I understand that failure to comply with any of the rules could result in termination of membership in the KAERC and termination of any related state employment. It is understood that it is my responsibility as a member of the KAERC to cease use of and, where possible, return to the KDA within 30 days of separation, all issued KAERC equipment and materials received during the membership period.

\_\_\_\_\_  
KAERC volunteer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

