



Johnson County Government Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Johnson County Department of Health and Environment's recycling video wins national award

Olathe, Kan. (Oct. 16, 2013) – The **Johnson County Department of Health and Environment's (JCDHE)** video "Barbie and the Hulk Make a Household Hazardous Waste Appointment" won the award for Best Education/Outreach by the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association (NAHMMA) during its 28th Annual Hazardous Materials Management Conference in St. Paul, Minn.

"NAHMMA is excited to honor hard working agencies like Johnson County Health and Environment," said NAHMMA President Victoria Hodge. "Our organization and industry would not be what they are today without agencies like them."

Each year NAHMMA recognizes organizations, programs, and individuals that manage household hazardous waste (HHW) at its annual conference. "Barbie and the Hulk Make a Household Hazardous Waste Appointment" breaks through the barriers of typical public service announcements by drawing viewers in with silly toys and leaving them with an enhanced knowledge about recycling their household chemicals; accomplishing the goal of being educational as well as entertaining.

"Education and outreach to our community about safe alternatives for unwanted chemicals is a high priority in our organization and one of the cornerstones of our success," said Lougene Marsh, director of JCDHE.

Johnson County has operated a household hazardous waste program since 1993 and continues to grow and innovate. Between June 1993 and 2012, more than 90,000 households have been served by the program and over 3.15 million pounds of hazardous materials, latex paint and tires have been processed. This program continues to provide a safe alternative for residents and small quantity generators by collecting, reusing, recycling or disposing of unwanted chemicals.

The award-winning video can be viewed at: <http://jcdhe.jocogov.org/>

For more information on the conference and NAHMMA visit: www.nahmma.org

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About Johnson County

Located in the southwestern quadrant of the Kansas City Metropolitan Region, Johnson County, Kansas is a community of choice with a current population of more than 544,000, making it the most populated of the 105 counties in Kansas, but traditionally having the lowest mill levy in the state. Johnson County offers a vibrant quality of life including nationally recognized schools, libraries and parks where businesses and families choose to locate and call their home. For more information visit the county's website at www.jocogov.org.

