

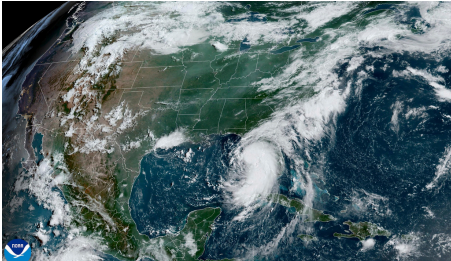
# *Emergency Management*

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

EOC News

AUGUST 9TH, 2024

### *Hurricane Debby*



The commencement of the first named storm in the season for Franklin County has been officially acknowledged. It's understandable that some may question the significance of this event, particularly when reflecting on past experiences. However, the commendable preparedness exhibited by our community remains a testament to our resilience.

Looking ahead, it is imperative to uphold this level of readiness and unity throughout the remainder of the season. Every storm, no matter its magnitude, serves as a touching reminder of nature's unpredictable might and the necessity of remaining vigilant. Our collective strength lies in supporting one another, disseminating crucial information, and ensuring equitable access to resources and aid.

Engaging in community gatherings, conducting emergency drills, and staying informed through credible sources can significantly enhance our preparedness. The cornerstone of our fortitude resides in our teamwork and our capacity to adapt and confront challenges jointly. Let us proactively prioritize safety, nurture the robust spirit of Franklin County, and confront any forthcoming storms with resolute unification and compassion.

By fostering a culture of preparedness, it is prudent to revisit and enhance our emergency supplies, devise clear communication strategies, and acquaint ourselves with evacuation routes. Special considerations must be extended to individuals with unique needs, elderly family members and pets, necessitating additional planning and support. Extending outreach to ensure the well-being of every member of our community is paramount.

Furthermore, it is essential to recognize the emotional and psychological strains that storm preparedness and recovery can impose. Offering a compassionate ear, words of solace, or practical assistance to those grappling with anxiety or distress can provide invaluable support. In times of uncertainty, acts of kindness and empathy are as crucial as physical preparedness.

As we brace ourselves for the forthcoming storm season, let us reaffirm our dedication to one another and to our cherished Franklin County. Our resilience is not solely measured by our endurance during storms but by our unity, mutual support, and collective strength in emerging stronger together. Here's to a season ahead marked by safety, solidarity, and resilience.



**To see us in action during  
our activation of  
Hurricane Debby please  
scan the QR code.**



**SCAN ME**

## *Emergency Management Staff, Volunteers, & Stakeholders*

*Shining a spotlight on the people who make this agency function.*

Franklin County Emergency Management team expresses our gratitude to everyone who was present during our activation of the EOC throughout Hurricane Debby. In times of need, our community has come together to once again ensure that all needs were taken care of and met. If it weren't for our wonderful CERT Volunteers; Franklin County Ham Radio Club; FDLE; Duke Energy; Franklin County Board of County Commissioners; DOH; Franklin County Waste Management, Parks and Rec, and Animal Control; Franklin County Road Department and Mosquito Control; Sheriff's Office; FDOT; Franklin County EMS; FHP; FDEM, and even our Army National Guard, we would not have been able to coordinate such an efficient and effective response. Your dedication and hard work have not gone unnoticed, and we are deeply grateful for your service and commitment to the safety and well-being of our community. Moving forward, we aim to continue building on this strong foundation of cooperation and preparedness. We encourage everyone to stay informed, participate in community preparedness programs, and always have a plan in place for emergencies. Together, we can face any challenge and come out stronger on the other side.

Thank you once again to all who contributed their time, resources, and expertise. Your efforts have made a significant difference, and we are proud to be part of such a resilient and caring community.



***A Word from our OPS Chief Tim Keith-Lucas***

Seventeen people slept in the EOC Sunday night. People filled the bunk room and were on cots in every room in the building. Most of these people were volunteers, but others represented county agencies and public works folks such as Duke Energy.

There are two reasons we sleep so many people. Some are on duty throughout the night, and sleep near their telephones in offices or the Operations Room. Others move into the bunk room to sleep for the night and be ready for duty again first thing in the morning. Our volunteers bring their pillows and jammies and expect to live with us until the emergency is over.

We know that we were feeding over twenty people at each meal, even at as minor an activation as Hurricane Debby. The problem is that when the county even partially evacuates, all the sources of food outside the EOC close. The other problem is that we cannot release people doing critical jobs long enough to go hunting for food. They eat at their desks, with plates prepared by our CERT volunteer chef, Bobbi Trickett.

The EOC looks like the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, and is about that crowded, during an activation. FCEM workers are color coded. Each person wears a vest in a color that denotes their role in the emergency response, plus a large name tag with first name and position clearly labelled. The professional staff wear blue, the Operations Chief purple, lead CERT volunteers wear green, staff in the operations room wear red, and general CERT volunteers assigned specific duties wear yellow. County Commissioners and mayors will wear black and the media pink when those vests arrive. At a glance we know what a person is doing to respond to the emergency. A person in the building but not wearing a vest really stands out.

I'm a retired college professor with a history of managing university events. Our scribe is the retired Florida state librarian. The Quartermaster had a career doing logistics for the USAF. Our Communications Chief has a physics Ph.D. and did research for the federal government. The Chef was a chef, and our vehicles person was a UPS driver. There's one heck of a lot of talent walking around in this EOC.

What a joy it is to work with Franklin County CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). These folks are the trained volunteers who support our emergency management. Many of them have ongoing roles in the EOC, supporting day to day operations. That means they know how the staff and the building work and fit right into the staff during an activation. They and the "general assignment" CERT volunteers step right up and get the job done, without being asked or assigned. They shift to the current task, whether it is preparing a meal, receiving shipments at the hanger, answering telephones, or repairing a toilet in our antiquated building. It is beautiful to watch them at work. It also means that my job as Operations Chief is smooth and enjoyable, not a pile of stress. It means that the professional staff can do their jobs without dealing with minor issues. As Commissioner Croom said, "It runs like a well-oiled machine."

## See What We Are Up To






*A glance at the projects that each staff member and prominent volunteer is undertaking.*

- Jennifer Daniels, the Director, has opened the bids for our Request for Proposal (RFP) at our most recent County Commissioners meeting on August 8th, 2024; and currently keeping our directory up to date. While normal business has resumed we are diligently working on wrapping up all the needs from Hurricane Debby.
- Amanda Anthony, the Coordinator, has completed the grants and the EOC is currently figuring up the rest of the year budget.
- Jessica Lockhart, the SPN Coordinator, is working on updating the pet preparedness plan.
- Tim Keith-Lucas, the Operations Chief, is refining our checklists to ensure comprehensive hurricane preparedness, updating our communications plan, and applying for the CERT Grant.
- Scott Bush, the Quartermaster, is currently reorganizing the EOC trailers to accommodate a wider array of events and coordinating the organization of the Hangar.
- Judi Ring, the CERT President, is developing educational materials to raise awareness about the CERT program among the public, updating our event schedule, and applying for the CERT Grant.
- Rob Zingarelli, the Lead Radio Operator, is concentrating on the radio wiring setup within the command trailer.
- Robin Daniels, the Inventory Manager, is in the process of consolidating equipment from various areas within the EOC to both the command trailer and its supporting trailer.
- Patricia Bludworth, is doing Re-Entry tags at Chillas Hall in Lanark Village.
- Allen Sanders, the Groundskeeper, has resumed grounds maintenance activities in preparation for the forthcoming summer season and is currently maintaining chainsaws.
- The team eagerly awaits the review and approval of the new building plans by the state Office of Environmental and Historic Preservation.

## Upcoming Events

Event	Description	Date	Time	Location
Intro to Ham Radio	Speaking Engagement to give beginner information about Ham Radio	August 20, 2024	4PM- 5PM	Margaret Key Library 80 12th Street Apalachicola, FL
-	-	-	-	-

Weather Outlook

	<u>Sat, 10 August</u>	<u>Sun, 11 August</u>	<u>Mon, 12 August</u>	<u>Tues, 13 August</u>	<u>Wed, 14 August</u>
<b>Weather</b>					
	Partly Cloudy	PM Thunderstorms	PM Thunderstorms	Scattered Thunderstorms	PM Thunderstorms
<b>Temp. (F)</b>	<b>80 / 90</b>	<b>78 / 90</b>	<b>78 / 90</b>	<b>78 / 91</b>	<b>79 / 94</b>

EOC Tip of the Week

**Alert Franklin**

As we know it is important to be in the know. After recent Hurricane Debby it is important that you stay apprised of any alerts that could be headed your way. Please be sure that you are signed up for Franklin Alert! Use the QR Code below, call us at the office 850-653-8977 or visit our website: <https://www.franklinemergencymanagement.com/alert-franklin/>

**Franklin County**  
Emergency Management  
To Receive the Latest  
Emergency Alerts



 **SCAN ME**

Let Us Know What You Think

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0830 - 1630

