

Emergency Management

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

EOC News

AUGUST 22ND, 2024

Communications During a Disaster



Communications during a disaster are quite pertinent. Knowing when or how to reach your loved ones can ease your peace of mind. Establishing a clear plan with your family and friends before a disaster strikes can make all the difference. Start by designating a primary and secondary point of contact, preferably someone who lives out of the affected area, to relay information to and from all parties involved. Ensure everyone has important contact numbers written down and stored in an easily accessible place, both digitally and on paper.

Consider utilizing multiple communication methods. While phone lines might be congested, text messages often get through more easily. Social media platforms and emergency apps can also serve as valuable tools for staying connected and informed about the situation. Familiarize yourself with local emergency services and community resources. Many areas have systems in place to disseminate critical information quickly, such as automated text alerts or community radio broadcasts. By staying informed and maintaining open lines of communication, you can better navigate the uncertainties of a disaster and ensure the safety and well-being of your loved ones.

There are various communication methods to utilize during a disaster. Here's just a few we can list; Radio: A crucial source of up-to-date news and updates, even in a power outage. A battery-operated radio can be a lifesaver. Emergency alert systems: Help in organizing and responding intelligently, ensuring safe and easy communication. Amateur radio: Also referred to as "ham" radio, it plays a vital role in disaster response and recovery, particularly when traditional phone lines and cell networks are unavailable. Satellite phones: Reliable, lightweight, and user-friendly devices for efficient voice communication during and after a disaster. Text messages: Ten times quicker than phone calls, allowing you to reach multiple individuals simultaneously. Text messages are ideal for sending critical alerts, such as impending natural disasters. Social media: An effective platform to update your loved ones on your well-being. Phone calls: Useful for important communication, but keep them brief to preserve battery life. Only contact emergency services by phone if possible; otherwise, use text messages.

By diversifying your communication methods and preparing in advance, you can significantly increase your resilience in the face of a disaster. Always remember to keep devices charged, have backup power sources available, and stay calm and clear-headed to manage the situation effectively. Your preparedness and resourcefulness can make a critical difference in ensuring the safety and security of everyone involved.

Emergency Management Staff, Volunteers, & Stakeholders

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

Duke Energy's Tara Miller



Tara has served as a Senior Engineering Technologist at Duke Energy for 25 years. For the initial two decades, she primarily worked in Saint Pete and Clearwater, before relocating to the Panhandle for the last five years. Her introduction to storm-related operations transpired during Hurricane Michael, where she performed storm damage assessments. Since transitioning to the Panhandle, Tara has assumed

the role of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) liaison.

Tara's wealth of expertise and unwavering commitment have proven invaluable to our organization, particularly in times of crisis. Her composed disposition and keen eye for detail distinguish her as an outstanding EOC liaison, ensuring seamless and efficient operations during emergencies.

Apart from her professional accomplishments, Tara is recognized for her dedication to mentoring and community service. She frequently volunteers at her dog shelter, offering training to various canine companions.

In her personal pursuits, Tara revels in the autumn season, particularly Halloween, hosting renowned seasonal gatherings. Her exceptional decorating skills are well-regarded, with decorations often adorning her home year-round. Tara's resilience, both professionally and personally, serves as a beacon of inspiration to all who cross paths with her.

Amateur Radio and Our Radio Repeater



Emergency Communications is one of the most important services that ham radio provides to society as a whole. The reason is pretty obvious – when all other communications fail, ham radio continues to work because it isn't reliant on the power grid or other infrastructure. Amateur radio provides critical emergency communications support. With just a

battery, a radio, an antenna, and a little knowledge, you can communicate around the world without your cell phone or an internet connection. When you're going off-grid away from cell service, you can throw a ham radio in your backpack, mount one on your vehicle, or set up a full station with an antenna to be able to make long-range contacts. You can also receive vital weather alerts from NOAA and real-time news from FM broadcasts. Many homesteaders or those far away from cell towers use ham radio as their main communication method. Others make a sport of it, activating mountaintops, called "summits on the air" or national parks, called "parks on the air" to see how many people they can reach on an outing. Did you know that we have installed a ham radio repeater for us to use in Franklin County, situated in Carrabelle, so that during any emergency situation we still have communications? If you would be interested in more information regarding getting your own ham radio license, please call us at the office or send an email to jessical@franklincountyflorida.com

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 been working on reimbursement for Hurricane Debby and also updating our directories.
- Amanda Anthony, the Coordinator, is preparing instructor notes for upcoming classes, and is currently figuring out 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
Labor Day	Holiday	September 2, 2024	All Day	N/A
LMS Meeting	LMS/ Stakeholders Meeting	Wednesday October 16, 2024	10AM-12PM	28 Airport Road Apalachicola, FL

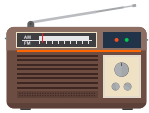
Weather Outlook

	<u>Fri, 23 August</u>	<u>Sat, 24 August</u>	<u>Sun, 25 August</u>	<u>Mon, 26 August</u>	<u>Tues, 27 August</u>
Weather					
	Partly Cloudy	Isolated Thunderstorms	AM Showers	AM Thunderstorms	AM Thunderstorms
Temp. (F)	73 / 87	75 / 89	76 / 90	77 / 90	76 / 90

EOC Tip of the Week

Disaster Sales Tax Holiday

Needing to purchase some communications devices such as radios? Utilize the upcoming Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday to do just that, August 24th to September 6th.



Also, keep in mind it's not just for communications devices; there are a wide variety of things that can be purchased as well.

For more information visit: floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep



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