Emergency Management WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

EOC News

NOVEMBER 15TH, 2024

November Is Not Yet Over: Are You Fully Prepared?



Finalizing these steps for emergency preparedness is vital in ensuring you're equipped to handle any potential emergencies that may occur.

- Hazard Identification: Recognize common natural hazards prevalent in your area, such as hurricanes, floods, and wildfires.
- Personal Preparedness: Create an emergency kit with essential supplies like water, non-perishable food, medications, first aid items, batteries, a flashlight, and a radio. Develop a family communication plan that

includes established meeting points and contact details. Design a customized evacuation plan outlining routes and transportation options.

- Staying Informed: Sign up for local emergency alerts through text, email, or phone to receive important updates. Keep an eye on weather forecasts and information from local authorities. Identify trustworthy sources for information during an emergency.
- Immediate Actions During an Emergency: Follow emergency responders' instructions promptly. Evacuate without delay when directed, using designated routes. Seek shelter in a safe location suited to the specific hazard. Learn basic first aid skills to assist yourself and others.
- Post-Emergency Actions: Report any damages to the appropriate authorities. Use available shelters and support services for recovery. Adhere to food and water safety guidelines to protect health and well-being.

This comprehensive strategy is designed to empower individuals with proactive measures for effective disaster preparedness.

- Regular Review and Practice: Routinely review and update your emergency plans to reflect any changes in circumstances or new information. Conduct regular drills with your family or household to ensure everyone understands the procedures and can act swiftly and confidently in a real emergency.
- Community Involvement: Participate in local community programs that focus on emergency preparedness. By engaging in neighborhood initiatives, you can create a supportive network, share resources, and collaborate on strategies to enhance collective resilience.
- Mental and Emotional Preparedness: Emergencies can be distressing and overwhelming.
 Prepare mentally and emotionally by learning stress-reduction techniques and building a support system of friends and family. Consider seeking professional resources or counseling if needed to strengthen mental health during and after a crisis.

By integrating these practices, individuals and communities can bolster their capacity to withstand and recover from emergencies, fostering a sense of security and preparedness that benefits everyone involved.

Emergency Management Staff, Volunteers, & Stakeholders

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

Faith Based Groups

Living in a rural county presents its own set of challenges; however, faith-based groups play a pivotal role in reaching and assisting the community in ways that others may not. These organizations often provide essential services, including food drives, clothing donations, and educational programs, ensuring that individuals have access to vital support. They cultivate a sense of belonging and foster a spirit of togetherness, uniting individuals through shared values and objectives. By organizing events and activities, these groups offer opportunities for community members to connect, learn, and grow. Their unwavering dedication and compassion inspire hope and resilience, significantly impacting the lives of many. Through their tireless efforts, faith-based organizations help bridge gaps and build a stronger, more unified community. If your church or Faith based organization would like to involved with emergency preparedness please send your group name, email, phone number, and address to jlockhart@franklincountyflorida.com.

CERT



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is dedicated to educating and training volunteers in essential disaster preparedness and response skills. CERT volunteers acquire critical skills, including fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster medical operations, and support for professional responders. During all phases of a disaster

—before, during, and after—CERT volunteers engage in fundamental response activities, enabling professional responders to focus on more complex tasks. These activities include checking in on neighbors, disseminating information to the public, supporting emergency operations centers, assisting with traffic and crowd management, and recruiting additional volunteers.

What does CERT do? CERT members are trained to collaborate with and support Franklin County Emergency Management. They participate in a variety of incidents and events throughout the County, with tasks varying based on the members' capabilities and comfort levels.

The Franklin County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is looking for volunteers.

CERT offers versatile opportunities, including participation in events, EOC activation, and various emergency operations. New members receive basic training and additional training based on interests. Tasks include unloading supplies, search and rescue, and answering phones. Interested individuals can apply or contact Jennifer Daniels at jenniferd@franklincountyflorida.com for more information.



EOC News

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, Hurricane Helene, and also updating our directories; also, she recently attended the FEPA planning committee, to which she is the co-chair.
- Amanda Anthony, the Coordinator, is preparing instructor notes for upcoming classes and updating our Survival Guide.
- Jessica Lockhart, the SPN Coordinator, is working on updating the pet preparedness plan and taking training to further her knowledge about the field of Emergency Management.
- 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, and also currently equipping our Mobile Command Trailer.
- Scott Bush, the Quartermaster, is currently reorganizing the EOC trailers to accommodate a wider array of events, coordinating the organization of the Hangar, and also assisting with equipping our Mobile Command Trailer.
- 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.
- Robin Gibson, our Vehicle Inspector, has been diligently checking and ensuring that our county vehicles are maintained and ready at a moment's notice.
- 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.

<u>Upcoming Events</u>

Event	Description	Date	Time	Location
Freedom Festival	A Salute to our Veterans	Saturday Nov 16, 2024	10 AM - 4 PM	8 Airport Road, Apalachicola, FL
Thanksgiving	Holiday	Thursday Nov 28	All Day	-

Weather Outlook

	<u>Sat, Nov 16</u>	Sun, Nov 17	Mon, Nov 18	Tues, Nov 19	Wed, Nov 20
Weather					
	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	PM Rain	AM Showers
Temp. (F)	58 / 74	61 / 76	70 / 77	71 / 79	50 / 77

EOC Tip of the Week

Turkey Frying Safety Tips

In case of a turkey fryer fire, call 911 immediately.

To fry a turkey safely:

- Location: Place fryer 25 feet from flammable materials on stable ground.
- **Temperature**: Keep oil at 325°F with a deep-fry thermometer.
- Oil: Avoid overfilling; measure oil before heating.
- **Turkey**: Ensure it's fully thawed, dry, and under 14 pounds.
- Supervision: Never leave the fryer unattended.
- Clothing: Wear protective gear and eye protection.
- Fire extinguisher: Keep one nearby; do not use water on oil fires.
- Clean up: Keep kids and pets away; oil stays hot for hours.
- Slow addition: Lower turkey gently into oil to prevent

flare-ups.



Let Us Know What You Think

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