

Emergency Management

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

EOC News

DECEMBER 6TH, 2024

The Conclusion of Hurricane Season: What Comes Next?

With hurricane season officially behind us, we can take a moment to breathe a sigh of relief. However, just because it has ended doesn't mean we should cease our preparations.

The close calls we had this season should serve as a poignant reminder of nature's unpredictability and the necessity of remaining vigilant. It is essential to recognize both our good fortune and the effectiveness of our preparedness measures, which undoubtedly played a critical role in safeguarding our community when the storms altered their course. Reflecting on these experiences highlights the importance of adaptability and flexibility in our strategies.

Weather conditions can change rapidly, and our capacity to respond to these shifts can significantly influence outcomes. By maintaining robust communication channels and ensuring that all emergency personnel are well-trained to handle sudden changes, we can enhance our resilience against future threats.

As we move forward, let us build on our successes while proactively addressing challenges. By fostering a well-informed and prepared community, we can confidently face whatever the future may hold. Now is the time to evaluate our response strategies and enhance our preparedness for future emergencies. This period allows us to reflect on effective practices while identifying areas for improvement in our emergency plans.

Next, prioritizing the update of our emergency kits and ensuring that all necessary supplies are replenished is crucial. This process involves checking expiration dates on food and water supplies, as well as replacing any used medical supplies or batteries. Community education and outreach remain equally important, even during the off-season. Be sure to utilize any information that we offer on our website: www.franklinemergencymanagement.com.

Lastly, leveraging technology and data analytics can significantly enhance our readiness. By analyzing patterns from previous hurricanes, we can improve our predictive capabilities and response strategies, thereby minimizing the impact on our communities.

As we transition into the winter months, let us build upon the lessons learned from this past hurricane season, ensuring that Franklin County remains safe and well-prepared for any challenges that may arise.



Emergency Management Staff, Volunteers, & Stakeholders

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

Franklin County EMS



Franklin County EMS is a fundamental part of our community, whether they are responding to a call for help or training the community on how to perform CPR; they are one of the best assets our community can have. Their dedication and expertise ensure that residents feel safe and supported during emergencies. The team is composed of highly skilled professionals who work tirelessly to respond quickly to any crisis, providing vital medical care and assistance. Their commitment extends beyond immediate response, they also engage in educational outreach, helping to prepare individuals and families for potential emergencies. This proactive approach not only empowers the community but also strengthens the bond between EMS personnel and residents, fostering a culture of strength and mutual support. Congratulations to James Osteen on becoming the Director of Franklin County EMS, and we look forward to our continued partnership with Randal Waltman, we will miss you and hope that you enjoys your new station in Wakulla County!

Cold Weather Safety Tips



Here are some crucial tips to maintain safety during cold weather:

Dress Appropriately: Wear multiple layers of loose-fitting clothing, including a hat, gloves, and a tightly woven, wind-resistant coat to retain body heat. **Limit Outdoor Exposure:** Minimize your time outdoors and prioritize staying indoors whenever possible. **Take Regular Breaks:** If you must go outside, ensure you take frequent breaks in a warm shelter to prevent excessive exposure to the cold. **Avoid Overexertion:** Exercise caution to prevent overexertion while completing laboring tasks. **Monitor Health:** Regularly assess your own physical condition as well as that of your colleagues to identify any issues early. **Stay Hydrated:** Drink warm liquids to maintain hydration levels, which are crucial in cold weather. **Keep Dry:** Remain dry by wearing appropriate clothing and packing extra layers, as moisture can lead to increased heat loss. **Inspect Your Vehicle:** Thoroughly check your vehicle's battery, fluids, and tires, and ensure you have jumper cables readily available. **Provide Shelter for Pets:** Bring pets indoors to offer them shelter and ensure they have access to fresh water.

Be Aware of Hypothermia: Hypothermia can occur even at temperatures as mild as 40°F. Watch for warning signs such as shivering, confusion, fatigue, and loss of muscle control. If you observe these symptoms, check the individual's temperature. If it is below 95°F, seek medical attention immediately.

See What We Are Up To

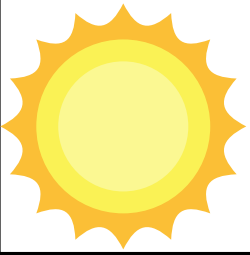

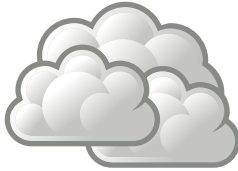


A glance at the projects that each staff member and prominent volunteer is undertaking.

- Jennifer Daniels, the Director, has been working on reimbursement for Hurricane Debby, Hurricane Helene, and also updating our directories; also, she will be attending a Directors and FEPA meeting next week.
- 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, equipping our Mobile Command Trailer, and also setting up for Holiday on the Harbor.
- 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 prepping our oncoming class of Certers.
- Rob Zingarelli, the Lead Radio Operator, is concentrating on the radio wiring setup within the command trailer and is doing weekly check-ins with SARNET.
- 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.

Upcoming Events

Event	Description	Date	Time	Location
Holiday on the Harbor	Festival and Boat Parade of Lights	Saturday Dec 14	12 PM - 7 PM	Carrabelle, FL
Christmas	Christmas Eve and Christmas Day	Tues - Wed Dec 24 & 25	All Day	-

Weather Outlook

	<u>Sat, Dec 7</u>	<u>Sun, Dec 8</u>	<u>Mon, Dec 9</u>	<u>Tues, Dec 10</u>	<u>Wed, Dec 11</u>
Weather					
	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Showers	Rain
Temp. (F)	43 / 62	56 / 68	65 / 74	62 / 75	36 / 65

EOC Tip of the Week

Fire Safety Tips

Follow these heating safety tips to help keep your home fire safe this winter.

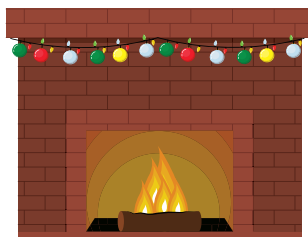
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from your fireplace or wood stove.
- Do not burn paper in your fireplace or wood stove.
- Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.
- Put ashes in a metal container with a lid. Place the container outside at least 10 feet from your home.

Fireplace safety

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out.
- Make sure fireplace “on” switches and remote controls are out of the reach of children.

Wood stove safety

- Make sure your wood stove has been tested by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Keep the doors of your wood stove closed unless loading or stoking the live fire.



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