

# *Emergency Management*

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

EOC News

MARCH 14TH, 2025

### March Mitigation Madness



Did you know that you can safeguard both your finances and your home by ensuring it is prepared for any potential disaster? In disaster management, mitigation involves taking proactive measures to reduce or eliminate long-term risks linked to hazards or disasters. This approach helps to lessen the impact of unavoidable events on both individuals and properties. Mitigation, in its simplest form, is a proactive strategy aimed at reducing potential harm from disasters

instead of just responding after they happen.

Some examples include:

- **Preventing Disasters:** For new constructions, this involves enforcing strict building codes that can withstand hurricanes and ensuring homes are located away from flood-prone areas.
- **Reducing the Impact of Unavoidable Events:** When new bridges are built, they should be designed to endure harsh conditions, along with implementing effective building codes to protect properties from hurricanes.

To mitigate risks at home, consider the following:

- Install hurricane shutters on windows and entrances.
- Obtain flood insurance and invest in a flood-proof HVAC system.
- Create a fire line to protect against fires, and keep flammable debris, such as pine straw, away from your home.

Remember, mitigation is crucial as it helps minimize loss of life and property damage while also reducing the long-term economic and social impacts of disasters. We understand that this may appear overwhelming. However, a notable example of success in our county is Alligator Point Road. Previously, every hurricane or severe storm would wash the road out. Since Hurricane Michael, we have successfully addressed this issue. The project, which cost around \$4 million, was a collaborative effort involving local, state, and federal governments to bring it to fruition.

We understand that tackling this challenge alone can be quite difficult. However, there are Mitigation Grant programs available to help communities lessen the effects of disasters. Three federal mitigation grant programs are available: the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program.

Franklin County Emergency Management holds an LMS (Local Mitigation Strategy) Meeting quarterly. These meetings are open to the public, and we invite you to attend. If you cannot join us in person, we also offer Zoom options for remote participation.

## Emergency Management Staff, Volunteers, & Stakeholders

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

### LMS Working Group



During our quarterly LMS meetings, you might be curious about our activities. These meetings are designed for stakeholders and the public. We maintain a continuous list of mitigation projects, and during the meetings, the working group evaluates and "grades" these projects. Each project differs in size and impact on the community. We also encourage the addition of new projects regularly. When it's time for a meeting, we review the details of each project and rank them. This process ensures that we can allocate funding effectively when it becomes available. The great thing about the working group, is that it effectively works for you, the community; and essentially you and the stakeholders are the working group. The wonderful aspect of the working group is that it truly serves you, the community; in essence, you and the stakeholders make up the working group. By participating, you have a direct hand in shaping the future of our community's resilience and safety. Your insights and local knowledge are invaluable in identifying potential risks and proposing innovative solutions that might otherwise be overlooked. Together, we ensure that our community is not only prepared for emergencies but also equipped to thrive in their aftermath. Whether you are a seasoned volunteer or a newcomer eager to make a difference, your involvement is crucial. We are grateful for your dedication and look forward to continuing this vital work with your support.

### Mitigation Grants



Here is list of Mitigation Grants and what they can do for you.

- The Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) program offers grant funding to communities aiming to safeguard themselves against disaster-related losses, as well as to prepare in advance of such events. The mission of the program is to create, develop, and support high-performing teams that advocate for and implement risk reduction initiatives.

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program helps states, and local communities implement hazard mitigation projects to reduce disaster risks. Key initiatives include:

- Flood Mitigation Assistance: Funds projects to prevent repetitive flood damage for properties under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- Flood Mitigation Assistance Swift Current: Offers funding for buildings insured through NFIP to reduce future flood damage post-disaster.
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: Supports governments in creating hazard mitigation plans after presidential disaster declarations.
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire: Provides post-wildfire assistance to implement mitigation strategies against secondary hazards like flooding and erosion.
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation: Offers federal funds for sustainable measures to reduce risks from future natural hazards and decrease reliance on federal disaster funding.
- Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund Program: Provides grants to establish loan funds for hazard mitigation assistance, reducing risks from natural hazards.

## 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 our Multi Year Strategic Plan (MYSP), attending trainings, updating our MOU's, and planning 2 exercises.
- Amanda Anthony, the Coordinator, is working on updating our finance books, and planning our Build Your Bucket Event for early May.
- Jessica Lockhart, the SPN Coordinator, has coordinated a Contractors meeting for March 25, 2025, is still taking training to further her knowledge about the field of Emergency Management, and currently planning a POD exercise for early May.
- Tim Keith-Lucas, the Operations Chief, is refining our checklists to ensure comprehensive hurricane preparedness, equipping our Mobile Command Trailer and preparing our MYSP.
- 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.
- 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
LMS Meeting	LMS/Stakeholders Meeting	Wednesday March 19, 2025	10 AM - 12 PM	28 Airport Road, Apalachicola, FL
Community CPR Class	CPR Training	Thursday March 20, 2025	6P - 7P	Carrabelle Food Pantry
Contractors/ Subcontractors Meeting		Tuesday March 25, 2025	2PM	28 Airport Road, Apalachicola, FL

Weather Outlook

	<u>Sat, March 15</u>	<u>Sun, March 16</u>	<u>Mon, March 17</u>	<u>Tues, March 18</u>	<u>Wed, March 19</u>
<b>Weather</b>					
	Mostly Cloudy	AM Thunderstorms	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Sunny
<b>Temp. (F)</b>	<b>68 / 76</b>	<b>51 / 75</b>	<b>48 / 70</b>	<b>56 / 71</b>	<b>61 / 74</b>

EOC Tip of the Week

Join LMS  
Working Group  
Help us help you!!



Let Us Know What You Think

Address  
28 Airport Road  
Apalachicola, FL 32320

Phone  
(850) 653-8977

Email  
[emfranklin@franklinemergencymanagement.com](mailto:emfranklin@franklinemergencymanagement.com)

Website  
[www.franklinemergencymanagement.com](http://www.franklinemergencymanagement.com)

Social Media  
Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/FranklinEOC>

Office Hours  
Monday - Friday  
0830 - 1630

