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# *Emergency Management*

## WEEK IN REVIEW

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### Welcome

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Franklin County Emergency Management (FCEM) is dedicated to the prevention, mitigation, preparation for, response to, and recovery from both man-made and natural disasters.

Our team of staff and volunteers work tirelessly to serve you: the people of Franklin County.



### Latest News

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### *Work Nearing Completion on Carrabelle Repeater*

Expanding radio coverage to blanket the entire county

For some time now, CERT volunteers have been diligently working on installing a radio repeater on top of the water tower in the City of Carrabelle. While it is currently operational, there is still work to be done.

As with any device, the radio equipment generates heat. This will be problematic as we move into the summer months. To prevent malfunctions and damage, a small air conditioning unit is being installed to maintain an acceptable operating temperature for the equipment. Additionally, the power supply is being enhanced to ensure a consistent flow of electricity to keep the repeater running.

The repeater extends radio coverage into parts of Tate's Hell, and is accessible to any and all licensed amateur radio operators. With the installation of proposed additional repeaters in other areas of the county, it will be possible to have reliable radio coverage in even the most remote parts of Franklin County.

## **Emergency Management Staff & Volunteers**

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



Josh Preiser is the newest staff member of the EOC. Born and raised in Western Washington, he moved to Northwest Florida in 2016. He served as a weather forecaster in the Air Force for six years, and brings that skill set to benefit operations at the EOC.

Filling the role of Special Needs Coordinator he works with the Department of Health during evacuations to ensure that residents with special medical needs are safely out of harms way, as well as returned safely after the crisis has passed. He lives in Carrabelle with his wife and their two year old daughter.

## **Damage Documentation**

Proving the damage is storm related

When a home is damaged by a significant storm, FEMA is able to compensate home owners to repair damages. Naturally, there are a few stipulations to this. First, this is only possible if the damaged structure is your primary residence. FEMA will not compensate for damages to vacation homes. Second, it must be proven that damage was caused by the storm in question. The easiest way to do this is to take pictures of your home before a storm arrives. In order to report damages, email [emfranklin@franklinemergencymanagement.com](mailto:emfranklin@franklinemergencymanagement.com) with the following information:

- Name
- Telephone Number
- Address of Damage
- Picture of the Damage
- Time the damage occurred (If known)

Alternatively, you can fill out the damage reporting form at <https://forms.gle/dDjVUUbQqFfWfo1Ag8>.

## **Understanding the Local Mitigation Strategy**

Take a look at what goes on between storms

Franklin County Florida is threatened by a number of different types of natural, technological, and societal or man-made hazards. These hazards endanger the health and safety of the population of the county, jeopardize its economic vitality, and imperil the quality of its environment. With the importance of avoiding or minimizing the vulnerability to these hazards, the public and private sector interest of Apalachicola, Carrabelle and Franklin County have joined together to create a task force to undertake a comprehensive planning process that has culminated in the publication of the: “Franklin County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS)”.

Meetings are held every quarter at the EOC, and are open to the public. We invite you to attend to learn what is being done to safeguard the county and take part in the planning process.

### *This week at the EOC*






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

- Scott Bush (Quartermaster) is renovating the command trailer so that it is tailored to our needs.
- Rob Zingarelli (Lead Radio Operator) is working on a class curriculum to help our Technician level operators prepare for the FCC General license exam. He is also working on the wiring for radios in the command trailer.
- Patricia Bludworth (Inventory Manager) is moving equipment from around the EOC to the command trailer and its support trailer.
- Tim Keith-Lucas (Operations Chief) is working on our checklists that make sure that we don't forget some important step when a hurricane approaches.
- Jennifer Daniels is working to incorporate Florida's F-ROC program into Franklin County's procedures.
- Amanda Anthony is overhauling the FCEM website.
- Josh Preiser is working with local healthcare agencies to update their respective emergency management plans.
- We are all eagerly waiting for our new building plans to get past the state Office of Environmental and Historic Preservation.

### *Upcoming Events*

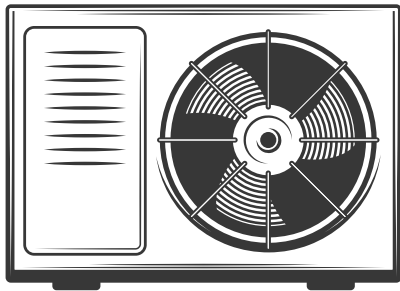
Event	Description	Date	Time	Location
Ham Radio General License Class	A class to teach students what they need to know to attain the second level of Ham Radio licensure	Every Tuesday and Thursday from 04Apr-02May	Contact w4zng.radio@gmail.com	FCEM 28 Airport Rd Apalachicola, FL 32320
Local Mitigation Strategy Meeting	A meeting held quarterly to discuss ongoing projects to mitigate the impact of disasters in Franklin County	17Apr	1000	FCEM 28 Airport Rd Apalachicola, FL 32320

Weather Outlook

	<u>Tue, 09 Apr</u>	<u>Wed, 10 Apr</u>	<u>Thu, 11 Apr</u>	<u>Fri, 12 Apr</u>	<u>Sat, 13 Apr</u>
<b>Weather</b>					
	Partly Cloudy	Rain Showers with a chance of Thunderstorms	Mostly Cloudy with a chance of Rain Showers	Sunny	Partly Cloudy
<b>High Temp. (F)</b>	74	74	74	75	73
<b>Low Temp. (F)</b>	60	64	70	52	49

EOC Tip of the Week

Let Us Know What You Think



*Window A/C Unit Safety*

Ubiquitous units undertaking useful utility

- Clean the filter on a regular basis
  - This ensures higher air quality and reduces the risk of fires
- Plug the unit directly into a wall outlet
  - This reduces the risk of fires
- Be mindful of other large appliances on the same circuit
  - This can cause the circuit breaker to activate
  - Also can increase risk of fire
- Ensure the unit is secure in the window
  - An improperly installed unit can fall from the window

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