

# Emergency Management

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

EOC News

APRIL 23RD, 2024

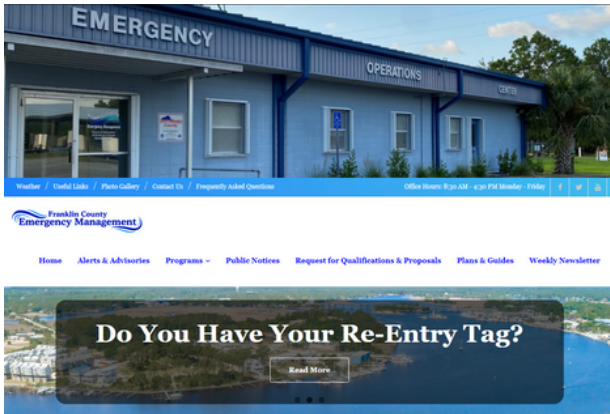
### Bringing The FCEM Website Into The 2020s

*Giving our website a much needed face lift.*

With the ubiquity of the internet in modern society it is important for a business or government agency to have a functional, easy to use website. Over the last few weeks, Coordinator Amanda Anthony has been working diligently to overhaul the EOC's website to enhance its functionality and make it more user friendly.

The website now integrates social media into the website and puts important and commonly used links at the top of the page so they can be more easily found.

Guides have also been enhanced and clarified. No longer will you be endlessly redirected to other websites for information to finally be found. It is our hope that this added simplicity will help the people of Franklin County be better prepared when disaster strikes.



### EOC Salutes Dedicated Volunteers

*FCEM recognizes the immeasurable contribution made by volunteers.*

Volunteerism is a selfless act done in service to one's community. It takes many forms, and all deserve to be recognized. To that end, every year since 1974 the United States has celebrated National Volunteer Week. This year, President Biden has proclaimed that the week of April 21st to April 27th is designated as the National Volunteer Week of 2024.

With its limited staff, FCEM depends on volunteers to function and serve Franklin County. These hardworking individuals bring with them a vast array of unique skills and an impressive dedication to their fellow man. They are constantly hard at work doing their utmost to better their community and help those in need.

Franklin County Emergency Management cannot possibly understate the magnitude of its gratitude to these volunteers who step forward in peace and in disaster to make sure their neighbors are taken care of, and their community kept safe.



## **Emergency Management Staff, Volunteers, & Stakeholders**

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



Randi "Nicole" Sandoval began working in the Department of Health in 2014. Having earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Florida State University, she worked as a registered nurse at Weem's Memorial Hospital before transferring to the Department of Health. She currently holds the position of Public Health Preparedness Planner where she works with community partners to ensure that Franklin County is ready for a public health emergency.

In a disaster she represents the Department of Health at the EOC and acts as a liaison between the two agencies. During blue skies she is a member of the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group where she helps coordinate mitigation efforts throughout Franklin County.

## **When Tate's Hell Becomes Your Hell**

*Have the means to be found when you go into Tate's Hell.*

Tate's Hell State Forest dominates the northern reaches of Franklin County. It is a popular place to go hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, and even bird watching. With thousands of Americans going missing in the wild every year, there are some simple steps you can take to keep from being counted among them.

First and foremost, tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return. This person will be able to more quickly get a search underway if you fail to return. If you do become lost, stay put and wait for rescue. If you continue to move about the woods then it will be more difficult for rescuers to find you. You can make yourself easier to find by wearing bright clothing. Bring a small mirror with you to be able to signal passing aircraft.

Finally, be prepared for this possibility by having extra food and water with you on your excursion.

## **Yearnin' For a Burnin'**

*A look at the ever smoldering threat of wildfires.*

Wild fires can come from many sources. Lightning, arson, negligence, and even tomfoolery. They can spread with incredible speed and cross barriers that many would consider to be safe. With significant amounts of forest in Franklin County, it is important that we all be prepared for wildfires.

Fortunately, there are resources available to help with this. The first is a map of authorized burns in the state of Florida (<https://whyprescribedfire.org/burn-map/>). The National Weather Service also issues fire weather products ([https://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/fire\\_wx/](https://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/fire_wx/)). This product comes from an analysis of recent rainfall, prevailing winds, and other factors to determine the threat of wildfires.

Furthermore, there is a county ordinance in place banning burns in Lanark Village. This is due to the lack of a fire department that can rapidly respond to the area should their services be needed. If you live in Lanark Village and see someone running a burn pile, please contact the Franklin County Sheriff's Office at 850-670-8500 or call 911 if the situation is an emergency.

## *See What We Are Up To*

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

- Scott Bush (Quartermaster) is renovating the mobile command trailer so that it is tailored to our needs.
- Rob Zingarelli (Lead Radio Operator) is leading a class 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.
- Judi Ring (Public Communications Officer) is developing literature to educate the public about the CERT program.
- Allen Sanders (Groundskeeper) is repairing dilapidated areas of the facility.
- Jennifer Daniels is working to incorporate Florida's F-ROC program into Franklin County's procedures.
- Amanda Anthony is putting the final touches on the new and improved EOC website.
- Josh Preiser is writing standardized instructions regarding the use of software and computer procedures.
- We are all eagerly waiting for our new building plans to be reviewed and approved by the state Office of Environmental and Historic Preservation.






## *Upcoming Events*

<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Ham Radio General License Class	Teaching what you need to know to attain the second level of Ham Radio licensure	Every Tuesday and Thursday from 04Apr-02May	3PM - 5PM	FCEM 28 Airport Rd Apalachicola, FL 32320
Riverfront Festival	A day of family friendly activities, vendors, and live music	27Apr	10AM - 6PM	Marine Street Carrabelle, FL 32322

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Weather Outlook

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	<u>Tue, 16 Apr</u>	<u>Wed, 17 Apr</u>	<u>Thu, 18 Apr</u>	<u>Fri, 19 Apr</u>	<u>Sat, 20 Apr</u>
<b>Weather</b>					
	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
<b>Temp. (F)</b>	50 / 74	51 / 76	54 / 80	59 / 81	63 / 78

EOC Tip of the Week



*72 Hour Emergency Kit*

*Help may not be able to get to you immediately after a disaster.*

- A three day supply of non-perishable food per person
  - Rice
  - Beans
  - Canned goods
  - Instant oatmeal
- One gallon of water per person per day
  - Additional water is needed for cooking
- Matches
- Can Opener
- For more information and advice, visit the EOC website at <https://www.franklinemergencymanagement.com/resources-2/>

Let Us Know What You Think

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Social Media

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

Office Hours

Monday - Friday  
0830 - 1630

