

# *Emergency Management*

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

EOC News

APRIL 30TH, 2024

### *EOC Along the Riverfront*

*Meeting with the good people of Franklin County at an annual festival.*

An annual event in downtown Carrabelle, the Riverfront Festival brings people from far and wide to enjoy food, games, and other family friendly activities. As always, the FCEM ran a booth, or several, at the festival.

This year the booths represented the EOC, CERT program, and provided basic first aid and water for those who needed it. Fundraising was also wildly successful with several hundred dollars being raised for the CERT program. This will go a long way to helping bolster the capabilities of the CERT volunteers and their program.

We hope to see you at the festival next year.



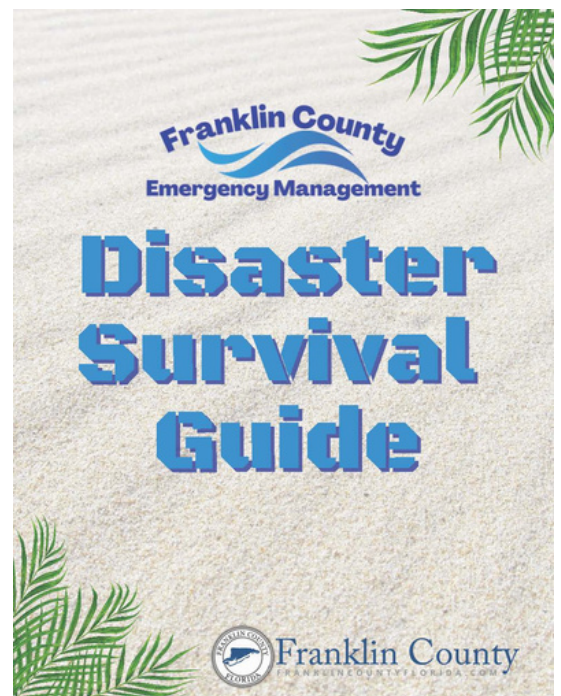
### *Hurricane Season Approaches*

*Are you prepared for this most wonderful time of year?*

Hurricane season commences on the first of June and lasts until the end of November. While hurricanes can occur at almost any time of year, this is the most common time for them to form and impact the State of Florida. This leaves a month to prepare for possible storms hitting Franklin County this year.

Now is the time to gather supplies and have a plan in place for how you and your family will respond to a hurricane. Do you have an emergency kit prepared? Where will you evacuate to? Take a look at the Disaster Survival Guide at <https://www.franklinemergencymanagement.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Disaster-Survival-Guide-3.pdf> for more things to consider in an emergency.

Maintaining situational awareness is an oft overlooked part of preparedness. To help with this aspect the National Hurricane Center issues various tropical weather products. One such product will resume scheduled publishing on May 15th. Check it out at <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo.php?basin=atlc&fdays=5>.



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

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



Connor "Beau" Millender is an eight year old honorary CERT member who volunteers with the program whenever the opportunity presents itself. At the Riverfront festival, Beau personally raised almost \$500 for the CERT program by selling eco-friendly coffee cups on behalf of the program.

In his free time he enjoys hunting the elusive Sasquatch, fishing, and studying the involvement of Franklin County in the war effort against the Axis powers.

## **New Weather Monitoring Stations Begin Broadcasting.**

*The long awaited WeatherSTEM stations are coming online this week.*

For the last several months the staff of FCEM have been coordinating the installation of three new weather monitoring stations with a company called WeatherSTEM. There are already several stations scattered about the county, and this week the fruits of our labor are realized. The station installed at the Alligator Point Fire Department is already online, and the stations on Dog Island and Saint George Island will go online later this week.

FCEM would like to thank Luke Hunnewell of WeatherSTEM for his efforts to expand coverage in the county, Randy Canon of the Dog Island Volunteer Fire Department who proved indispensable with the installation of the Dog Island station, Charlie Wood of FWC who transported materials to Dog Island, and Mitch McCalpin and the Franklin County Road Department who installed the pole for the station on Saint George Island.

Data from the WeatherSTEM units in Franklin County can be viewed at <https://franklin.weatherstem.com>.

## **Preparing a Progeny Plan**

*Ensuring your family is ready for disaster.*

Constructing an emergency plan can be a daunting task, but there are resources available to assist you.

<https://www.ready.gov/plan> is a fantastic place to visit to see what details of a plan to suites your family. It considers that the needs of every family is different and unique, and provides tips and resources to help keep your family safe in times of crisis.

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/> is another resource available to you. This is the website of the Florida Division of Emergency Management and is more tailored to suite the needs of Florida residents.

## 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 preparing a Request for Proposals for a debris management contract.
- 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

Event	Description	Date	Time	Location
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
NHC Resumes Hurricane Products	NHC will resume regularly scheduled hurricane products	May 15th	N/A	<a href="https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo.php?basin=atlc&amp;fdays=5">https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo.php?basin=atlc&amp;fdays=5</a>

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**Weather Outlook**

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	<u>Tue, 30 Apr</u>	<u>Wed, 01 May</u>	<u>Thu, 02 May</u>	<u>Fri, 03 May</u>	<u>Sat, 04 May</u>
<b>Weather</b>					
	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
<b>Temp. (F)</b>	65 / 80	65 / 83	65 / 84	65 / 84	65 / 84

EOC Tip of the Week



*Boating Safety*

*Safety on the high seas is paramount for survival.*

- Wear a life jacket
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Designate a sober driver if alcohol is involved
- Take a boating safety course
- Check your equipment
- File a Float Plan
- Know where you are going
- Monitor and consider weather conditions
- Stay with the boat if you run into trouble
  - It is more visible than lone swimmers
- Learn more at <https://myfwc.com/boating/>

Let Us Know What You Think

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