

Emergency Management

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

EOC News

MAY 7TH, 2024

EOC Assists As Health Department Prepares for Potential Evacuations

Ensuring services can be provided even after a catastrophe.

During a disaster there is always the potential that the buildings used by essential agencies could be damaged or destroyed. It is therefore essential that these agencies have a well rehearsed plan in place to ensure that they can operate from a secondary location. Referred to as Continuity of Operations (COOP) all government agencies have such a procedure on the books.

Over the last few weeks the Department of Health exercised their COOP plan in both Franklin and Gulf counties. This involves gathering essential supplies and relocating to a predesignated secondary location.

Coordinator Amanda Anthony and SPN Coordinator Josh Preiser assisted with these exercises by acting in the roles of security personnel and citizens visiting the clinics for routine appointments, thus adding to the workload that Health Department staff had to contend with.



How Are Contracts Awarded?

Understanding the legal process behind this.

Some parts of the Emergency Management functions are passed on to private companies who have extensive experience in that particular field. This could be the task of navigating the complex web of FEMA reimbursement policies and procedures to coordinating the removal and disposal of storm debris. In any case, the process is the same.

It starts with a Request for Proposal (RFP). This is a list of requirements and criteria that prospective contractors must meet. Once drawn up by the FCEM Director, it must be publicly announced so that a fair competition is held. Proposals are submitted by various companies, and are then rated according to a standardized rubric.

Scan the QR code to see past RFPs and other public bids.



Emergency Management Staff, Volunteers, & Stakeholders

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



WeatherSTEM is a company based in Tallahassee that creates weather monitoring stations. Originally started to enhance education opportunities, they pivoted and now focus on these weather stations.

Luke Hunnewell has been the primary point of contact between FCEM and WeatherSTEM since day one, working with the county from the first station was installed on the St George Island bridge. With his assistance, Franklin County now has nine stations spread throughout the county. He has been outstanding to work with and very eager to help the county gain better weather monitoring capabilities to enhance public safety.

Ace Your Weather Safety

An easy acronym to remember to help keep you safe.

Many in Northwest Florida have become somewhat numb to the danger that the weather can pose. While this is understandable given the frequency of threats like thunderstorms and even tropical systems, we all still must remember that these are dangerous events, and have a plan in place to protect ourselves and our families. One way to do so is to remember ACES:

- Awareness
 - What hazardous weather is possible?
- Communication
 - Do other people know where you are?
- Escape Routes
 - Where will you go if faced with severe weather?
- Safe Zones
 - Is there a safe place to seek shelter?

Special Needs Registry

With Hurricane Season upon us, we need to ensure we are ready.

The State Legislature defines special needs as “persons who would need assistance during evacuations and sheltering because of physical, mental, cognitive impairment, or sensory disabilities.” The special needs registry is completely voluntary, secure, and confidential. The registry provides emergency responders with the information to assist you in evacuation and sheltering during a disaster or emergency. If you or a loved one needs this service, you can apply online or at the Emergency Management office.

Scan the QR code to go to the FCEM website page about this program.



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.
- Amanda, Jennifer, and Josh are all preparing for the General level Amateur Radio exam.
- 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
NHC Resumes Hurricane Products	NHC will resume regularly scheduled hurricane products	May 15th	N/A	https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo.php?basin=atlc&fdays=5
Hurricane Preparedness Talk	Q&A with EOC staff regarding radio operations and hurricane preparedness.	May 16th	3:00 PM	Margaret Key Library 80 12th St Apalachicola, FL 32320

Weather Outlook

	<u>Tue, 07 May</u>	<u>Wed, 08 May</u>	<u>Thu, 09 May</u>	<u>Fri, 10 May</u>	<u>Sat, 11 May</u>
Weather					
	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy with Rain Showers	Mostly Cloudy with Rain Showers
Temp. (F)	70 / 84	71 / 84	74 / 86	72 / 82	58 / 78

EOC Tip of the Week



Fog Safety

Remain safe even if you cannot see.

- Pay attention to weather forecasts
- Heed NWS fog advisories
- DO NOT use your high beams in foggy conditions
- Reduce your speed to a safe velocity when driving through fog
- Listen for other vessels if boating in fog
- Have a radio tuned to NOAA Weather Radio
- Do not burn during foggy conditions
 - The smoke mixes with the fog and further degrades visibility

Let Us Know What You Think

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