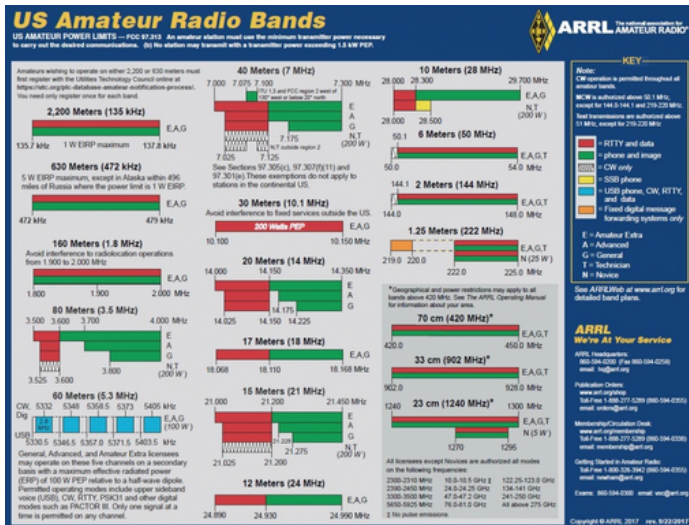


Emergency Management

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

EOC News

MAY 21ST, 2024



Examples of the radio frequencies allotted to each level of license.

EOC Gains Access to Greater Radio Privileges

Staff and Volunteers attain second level of licensure.

Over the past several weeks, EOC staff and volunteers have been attending classes hosted by CERT volunteer Rob Zingarelli. These classes covered a variety of topics ranging from radio wave propagation to different antennae styles and their functions. All staff members and volunteers who attended the class have successfully passed the test and have been awarded General level privileges by the Federal Communications Commission.

Aside from the greatly expanded knowledge gained from the upgrade process, this allows the EOC to access a much wider array of radio frequencies across many more bands. This helps ensure that there will always be a form of communication at the EOC during times of emergency when means such as internet and cellphones are rendered inoperable.

Staff and Volunteers Attain Storm Spotter Certification

EOC stands ready to assist NWS with storm reporting.

For decades there have been a group of individuals who work together to warn each other of impending weather events. Known as Storm Spotters, the role of these people has changed over time. They are now utilized by the National Weather Service to report storm related damage and significant weather phenomena. All that is required to be a storm spotter is to pass a basic knowledge test.

Members of the EOC staff and volunteers have started taking this training. It will bring a variety of benefits to the community ranging from increased preparedness and knowledge to being able to report weather events to the NWS, thus increasing the accuracy of their forecasts going forward.

If you would like to learn more about the storm spotter program, please scan the QR code on the right to visit the NWS page about the Skywarn program.



Emergency Management Staff, Volunteers, & Stakeholders

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



It could be you! There is an impending vacancy at the EOC, and you could be the one to fill it. If you have an interest in the inner workings of emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery then this is the place for you.

The Special Needs Coordinator performs a variety of roles at the EOC. For instance, they are the primary person to respond to members of the public who pay the EOC a visit. During activations, they coordinate with the Department of Health and transportation agencies to ensure that members of the community with major medical concerns are safely evacuated and returned home when it is safe. For more information, scan the QR code to the left.

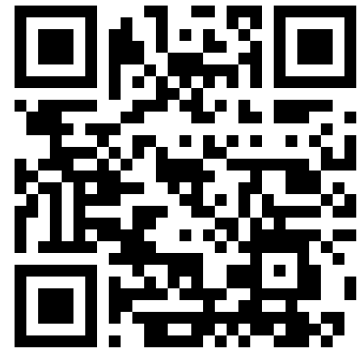
Sales Tax Holiday On Preparedness Items

Get more bang for your buck when you purchase items relating to emergency preparedness.

The anticipated sales tax holiday has been signed into law. Between June 1st and June 14th sales tax will be waived for qualifying items. This is intended to help Floridians properly prepare prior to storm season to prevent poor performance should disaster strike.

Qualifying items include, but are not limited to pet food, batteries, portable radios, fire extinguishers, and many more.

For a complete list, visit FloridaRevenue.com/disasterprep.



Boating Safety

With the exceptional amount of coastline in the county, boating is a popular pastime.

Boating is an enjoyable and common activity in Franklin County, but it is crucial that it is conducted in a safe manner. There are a multitude of ways to accomplish this:

- ALWAYS wear a life jacket
- Maintain situational awareness
- Maintain a designated driver
- Ensure equipment is in proper working order

Learn more at <https://myfwc.com/boating/safety-education/safety-tips/>



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 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 restarting groundskeeping efforts now that spring is upon us.
- Jennifer Daniels is arranging meetings to prepare for hurricane season.
- Amanda Anthony is finalizing a map of routes through Tate's Hell.
- Josh Preiser is closing out projects before he leaves the agency.
- 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
Hurricane Preparedness Talk	Q&A with EOC staff regarding radio operations and hurricane preparedness.	May 28th	3:00 PM	Margaret Key Library 80 12th St Apalachicola, FL 32320

Weather Outlook

	<u>Tue, 21 May</u>	<u>Wed, 22 May</u>	<u>Thu, 23 May</u>	<u>Fri, 24 May</u>	<u>Sat, 25 May</u>
Weather					
	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Temp. (F)	68 / 84	68 / 87	71 / 87	69 / 88	73 / 89

EOC Tip of the Week



Fallen Tree Safety

Hazards Arrive as Trees Go.

- DO NOT drive over fallen limbs.
- DO NOT climb through fallen trees.
- Keep a safe distance from damaged trees.
- When removing damaged branches, start from the top and work down.
- Practice proper pruning before storms arrive.
- Call for professional help if the situation warrants it.

Let Us Know What You Think

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