

# *Emergency Management*

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

EOC News

FEBRUARY 10TH, 2025

### **Build A Bucket and Being Disaster Prepared**



Franklin County, as you anticipate the arrival of the 2025 Hurricane season, are you confident in your preparedness? Have you organized everything you need? It's recommended to have at least seven days' worth of supplies ready, including essentials like food, water, medicine, and batteries. Have you begun assembling your supplies or ensured you have necessary items in your car for a quick evacuation? If not, now is the perfect time to go through your preparedness checklist.

Start by reviewing your emergency plan and ensuring every family member knows what to do in the event of a disaster. It's also wise to have copies of important documents stored securely, either digitally or in a waterproof container. Stay informed by signing up for local alerts and have a local weather radio on hand.

Engaging with your community can also enhance your readiness. Sharing resources and strategies with neighbors can help build a resilient network, ensuring everyone is better equipped to handle whatever comes our way.

Remember, preparedness is a continuous process. Regularly update your supplies, check expiration dates, and adjust your plan to address any changes in your circumstances. By staying proactive, we can all contribute to a safer, more prepared Franklin County.

Feeling unsure about where to begin? Don't worry or stress; Franklin County Emergency Management is here to assist you. We're excited to reintroduce the Build Your Bucket Disaster Kit event. During this event, you will receive a bucket to start your disaster kit, and various vendors will be providing supplies (while supplies last) to help you assemble your disaster kit. You can then add more items or even create separate kits, ensuring you are well-prepared in case of an emergency. Hurricane season behind us this year, but don't forget season starts again on June 1, it's the perfect time to start your preparations.

If you need further assistance with your planning, please visit our website:

<https://www.franklinemergencymanagement.com/resources-2/> or check out

<https://www.ready.gov/plan>. Both resources offer a wealth of information to help you get started on your plans.

If you are interested in helping with this event, would like to donate, or set-up a booth please contact  
Amanda Anthony at  
[amandaa@franklincountyflorida.com](mailto:amandaa@franklincountyflorida.com) or 850-653-8977  
ext 102.



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

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

### **American Red Cross: Kathy Bland**

When we experience a disaster, we face many new unknowns. The American Red Cross helps with the immediate disaster-caused needs of individuals, families, and communities. Did you know that whenever there is a disaster, regardless of the extent of damage, when you are in need of a safe place to stay; food and clothing replacement; assistance with lost eyeglasses, medications, and medical equipment; or crisis counseling/mental health and/or spiritual care support, you can call the American Red Cross for help? Our local Community Disaster Program Manager is looking for volunteers who can help when a disaster strikes our area. The Disaster Action Team, or DAT, is looking for locals to assist when a disaster strikes, and the best part is they supply all the training needed to be a volunteer. Don't feel like that's the best spot for you? There are plenty of options to choose from. Visit: <http://redcross.org/volunteer> to discover the best role for you.



**Visit the website above or scan the QR to see where you can help best in our Community!!**

### **Home Fire Preparedness**



Although we reside in a coastal community where we often prepare for hurricanes, it may surprise you to learn that home fires are the most common disaster in our country. However, having functional smoke alarms can reduce the risk of fatalities by 50%, as every moment is crucial during a home fire. The American Red Cross is dedicated to preventing home fires and ensuring our safety. Volunteers and partners will install free smoke alarms and offer personalized home fire safety education to individuals and families interested in learning about fire prevention, the significance of smoke alarms and fire extinguishers, and how to create a home fire escape plan.

By installing an adequate number of smoke alarms in your home, you can enhance your preparedness. Remember to test them monthly and replace the batteries at least once a year. Be sure to educate children on the sound of smoke alarms and the actions to take when they hear one. Make sure that you discuss two separate escape routes from each room and that everyone knows the designated family meeting spot outside, create this plan and practice so that each person knows where to go. Another great way to be prepared is to create a family emergency communication plan, by doing this you make sure that if anyone were to become separated they know who to contact for reunification. Ensure everyone knows how to dial 9-1-1 for emergencies. Teach household members to STOP, DROP, and ROLL if their clothing catches fire.



Scan the QR Code to learn more about getting your FREE Smoke Alarm from the American Red Cross.

## See What We Are Up To

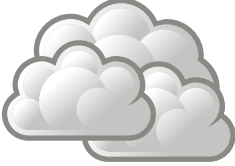




*A glance at the projects that each staff member and prominent volunteer is undertaking.*

- Jennifer Daniels, the Director, has been working on reimbursement for Hurricane Debby, Hurricane Helene, updating our directories, planning 2 exercises, also attended the FEPA Annual Meeting.
- Amanda Anthony, the Coordinator, is working on updating our finance books and our Survival Guide, attended our Annual FEPA Conference, and planning our Build Your Bucket Event for early May.
- Jessica Lockhart, the SPN Coordinator, is trying to coordinate a Contractors meeting for 2025, and taking training to further her knowledge about the field of Emergency Management, and attended our FEPA Annual Meeting.
- Tim Keith-Lucas, the Operations Chief, is refining our checklists to ensure comprehensive hurricane preparedness, equipping our Mobile Command Trailer.
- Scott Bush, the Quartermaster, is currently reorganizing the EOC trailers to accommodate a wider array of events, coordinating the organization of the Hangar, and also assisting with equipping our Mobile Command Trailer.
- Judi Ring, the CERT President, is developing educational materials to raise awareness about the CERT program among the public, updating our event schedule, and prepping our oncoming class of Certers.
- Rob Zingarelli, the Lead Radio Operator, is concentrating on the radio wiring setup within the command trailer and is doing weekly check-ins with SARNET.
- The Inventory Manager, is in the process of consolidating equipment from various areas within the EOC to both the command trailer and its supporting trailer.
- Robin Gibson, our Vehicle Inspector, has been diligently checking and ensuring that our county vehicles are maintained and ready at a moment's notice.
- Allen Sanders, the Groundskeeper, has resumed grounds maintenance activities in preparation for the forthcoming summer season and is currently maintaining chainsaws.
- The team eagerly awaits the review and approval of the new building plans by the state Office of Environmental and Historic Preservation.

## Upcoming Events

Event	Description	Date	Time	Location
Valentine's Day	-	Friday, February 14th, 2025	All Day	-
H'Cola Parade	H'COLA - Hillside Coalition of Laborers for Apalachicola	Saturday February 15th	12:00 PM- 2:00 PM	Apalachicola, FL
Camp Gordon Johnston Parade	Camp Gordon Johnston Museum's Veteran's Parade	Saturday March 8th, 2025	10:45 AM	Carrabelle, FL

Weather Outlook

	<u>Tues, Feb 11</u>	<u>Wed, Feb 12</u>	<u>Thur, Feb 13</u>	<u>Fri, Feb 14</u>	<u>Sat, Feb 15</u>
<b>Weather</b>					
	AM Fog/ PM Clouds	Mostly Cloudy	Thunderstorms	Mostly Cloudy	AM Clouds/PM Sun
<b>Temp. (F)</b>	<b>65 / 71</b>	<b>68 / 73</b>	<b>55 / 71</b>	<b>61 / 67</b>	<b>65 / 72</b>

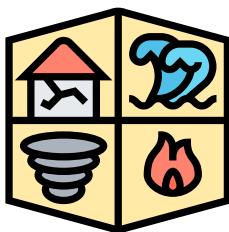
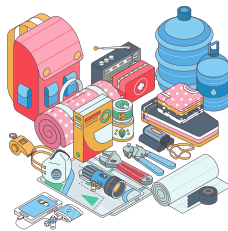
EOC Tip of the Week

**Disaster Preparedness**

Make sure you have an Emergency Family Plan that can be used for any disaster.

Use :

<https://www.ready.gov/plan-form>



Let Us Know What You Think

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