

# *Emergency Management*

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

EOC News

FEBRUARY 21ST, 2025

### Watches Vs. Warning



Franklin County do you know the difference between watches and warnings? When the National Weather Service (NWS) issues watches and warnings, they do so to alert residents about severe weather and the need for protective actions. A **watch** indicates the potential for a weather event, while a **warning** means that the event is expected to affect the area.

Understanding the difference between these two alerts is crucial for an appropriate response.

During a watch, individuals should stay informed and prepare by:

- Checking emergency supplies
- Securing outdoor items
- Reviewing evacuation plans

When a warning is issued, immediate protective measures are necessary. Residents should:

- Seek shelter in a safe location
- Follow instructions from local authorities
- Avoid non-essential travel

Being prepared is essential for ensuring safety and reducing risks during such events. By staying vigilant and ready, individuals and communities can effectively handle severe weather conditions and emerge from the experience even stronger.

To better equip yourself for Spring and the upcoming Hurricane season, familiarize yourself with the various alerts and their meanings:

- **Tropical Storm Watch:** Tropical storm conditions, with sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph, may occur in the designated area within the next 48 hours.
- **Hurricane Watch:** Hurricane conditions, defined by sustained winds of 74 mph or higher, could be present somewhere in the specified area. This watch is issued 48 hours before the expected arrival of tropical storm-force winds, as preparing becomes difficult once those winds begin.
- **Tornado Watch:** Tornadoes are possible in and around the watch area. Be ready to take immediate action if a warning is issued or if a tornado seems imminent.
- **Flood Watch:** A Flood Watch indicates conditions are favorable for flooding. While it does not guarantee flooding will occur, it remains a possibility.
- **Tropical Storm Warning:** Tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are expected within the specified area in the next 36 hours.
- **Hurricane Warning:** Hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are anticipated somewhere within the designated region. This warning is issued 36 hours before the expected arrival of tropical storm-force winds to ensure effective preparedness.
- **Tornado Warning:** A tornado has been sighted or detected via weather radar. Seek shelter in a safe location immediately.
- **Flood Warning:** A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is either imminent or currently taking place.
- **Flash Flood Warning:** A Flash Flood Warning is issued when a flash flood is imminent or occurring. If you are in a flood-prone area, relocate to higher ground immediately, as flash floods can develop rapidly, often within minutes or hours.

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

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



Many of you are familiar with Everbridge through Alert Franklin. This is the service that sends you phone calls, text messages, or even emails regarding weather alerts or other life safety notifications related to weather events occurring in our community. This amazing company is what helps us to notify all residents by phone, text, email, and even social media of any events that are occurring in our area. They are the backbone of what allows us to keep you all informed and up to date on what's happening in our community when it comes to severe weather, or watches or warnings that are issued from the NWS.

With their powerful platform, we can guarantee that everyone stays informed during critical moments. This collaboration showcases the impact of technology in improving public safety and strengthening community resilience.

Furthermore, we urge everyone to remain connected by ensuring that their contact information is current in the Alert Franklin system. This simple yet vital step will help you receive timely updates and instructions during emergencies. Together, with the support of Everbridge and our amazing team, we are committed to ensuring a safer and more informed community.

### **Preparing for Disasters**



As you plan for the future, are you well-informed about your home's insurance policy? Not all insurance policies offer the same level of protection. Review your policy or consult your agent to ensure you have adequate coverage and to see if any home upgrades might qualify for a premium discount. There are a few questions that you should consider when it comes to your policy: 1. What is

my standard deductible? 2. What is my Hurricane deductible? 3. Do I need flood insurance (Please keep in mind that our entire county is a surge zone)? 4. Is my coverage sufficient to replace my home and belongings? 5. Do I have loss-of-use coverage for temporary housing expenses?

If you are renter are you aware of the rental property's flood or storm surge risk; do you know your evacuation zone? Essential Questions for Renters to also consider: Should I obtain both flood insurance and renter's insurance to safeguard my personal items? Will my landlord ensure the windows are secured during a storm? If not, where will I seek shelter during a hurricane? Did you know that the majority of homeowners insurance policies do not cover damage caused by rising floodwaters? If your home is situated in a flood zone, your mortgage lender will require you to have flood insurance. Even if you are outside a flood zone, it's prudent to think about obtaining extra coverage, as flooding can happen in any area where it rains. Make sure to purchase a flood insurance policy promptly, as there is usually a 30-day waiting period before the coverage becomes effective.

I know this seems overwhelming, we at Franklin County Emergency Management just want to be sure that you are all informed about how to protect you, your loved ones and your property. For more insights on insurance policies, visit the Insurance Information Institute at [iii.org](http://iii.org). The Florida Department of Financial Services offers a toll-free Insurance Consumer Helpline year-round to assist residents with insurance needs. Insurance Specialists are available to answer questions and help resolve disputes with insurance providers. Contact an Insurance Specialist at 1-877-MY-FL-CFO (693-5236), Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For disaster preparedness information, visit [MyFloridaCFO.com/Division/Consumers](http://MyFloridaCFO.com/Division/Consumers) and click on Disaster Preparedness.

## 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.
- Amanda Anthony, the Coordinator, is working on updating our finance books and our Survival Guide, 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.
- 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
Camp Gordon Johnston Parade	Camp Gordon Johnston Museum's Veteran's Parade	Saturday March 8th, 2025	10:45 AM	Carrabelle, FL
Ham Radio Test	Ham Radio Test @ Wakulla County Library	Thursday March 13, 2025	6:00 PM	Wakulla County Library
Carrabelle Culture Crawl	Culture Crawl	Saturday March 22, 2025	10 AM - 3 PM	Downtown Carrabelle

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Weather Outlook

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	<u>Fri, Feb 21</u>	<u>Sat, Feb 22</u>	<u>Sun, Feb 23</u>	<u>Mon, Feb 24</u>	<u>Tues, Feb 25</u>
<b>Weather</b>					
	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny
<b>Temp. (F)</b>	<b>42 / 55</b>	<b>44 / 62</b>	<b>47 / 63</b>	<b>50 / 66</b>	<b>55 / 70</b>

EOC Tip of the Week

# It's Important to know your flood zone.



You can explore the website at <https://msc.fema.gov/>. Simply enter your address in the search bar to discover more information.

Let Us Know What You Think

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