



2023-2025

Multi-Year Report



FRANKLIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

28 Airport Road Apalachicola, Florida 32320 (850) 653-8977

FranklinEmergencyManagement.com



OUR MISSION AND VISION

MISSION

Minimize loss of life, personal injury, damage to property, or the environment caused by natural, technological, and human-caused disasters affecting Franklin County.

VISION

Everyday to better our preparation for the next disaster.

Message from the Director



**Jennifer Daniels, FPEM
Director**

My goal is to help Franklin County become as resilient as possible in the face of hurricanes and other disasters. I believe in a whole community approach, one where we all work together to recover from a disaster in our county. I was born and raised in Franklin County. My mother was the Property Appraiser, and my father was a manager for one of the main telecommunications companies. I raised my two sons here with my husband. His father was the City Clerk for Carrabelle for many years. I grew up with most of the leaders of Franklin County. I am proud to be a Franklin County citizen. I began my career in emergency management more than 10 years ago and moved up the ranks to become your Director two years ago. I was honored to be mentored by the previous Director. I am a certified Florida Professional Emergency Manager. I serve on the Certification Committee for FEPA (Florida Emergency Professional Association) and have served in

the past as an Area Governor. The staff at Franklin County Emergency Management, including Amanda Anthony, Coordinator, and Jessica Lockhart, EM Specialist, are amazing. They help educate our residents on how to protect themselves by being prepared, having a plan, registering for programs that will assist them, and keeping informed via Alert Franklin. We have been blessed by a corps of volunteers who help us every week and during activations. During the last two years, we have added county-wide radio communications based on a repeater in Carrabelle. We have purchased Starlink Satellite for several locations in the county. We have also purchased and equipped a mobile command trailer to allow us to respond from a base outside the county or in Tate's Hell. We are preparing for our new EOC building, which will be located on Hwy 65. Franklin County is a community that is dear to my heart because I call it home. I will continue to serve it to the best of my ability. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to do so. As always, we are here to serve you.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Daniels'.

**Jennifer Daniels, FPEM
Director**

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DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET

Every year, county emergency management agencies in the State of Florida receive two grants to support efforts to build and sustain core capabilities across the Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery mission areas. FCEM continuously looks for additional grant funding opportunities to increase the number and quality of programs we deliver, as well as to continually upgrade our technology and capabilities.

- Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance (EMPA) grant comes from the Florida Catastrophic Trust Fund and is funded through home and business insurance surcharges. **The EMPA grant award is \$105,806 annually.**
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) annual award is based on population and distributed from FEMA. **The EMPG grant award for the fiscal year was \$47,206.**
- Franklin County's portion of the Emergency Management budget was \$241,545.

**The department's operating budget for FY 23/24 was
\$394,557.**

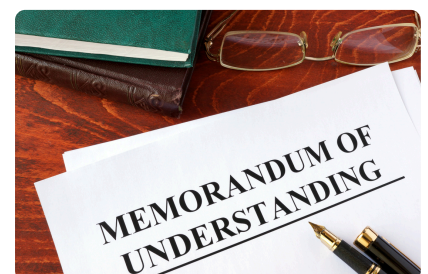
**Throughout this report you will see how our budget is spent
and the improvements we have made for Franklin County
Emergency Management.**



MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) & INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS & CONTRACTS

MOUs and interlocal agreements are the key to successful operations in gray skies.

- Franklin County Property Appraiser's Office for Damage Assessment
- Franklin County Schools for transporting during a disaster.
- Big Bend Transit, Inc. for transporting Special Needs registrants during a disaster.
- Tates Hell Radio Club
- Lanark Village Association housing and use of radio equipment.
- WeatherStem weather station
- Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement
- COOP Sites (Continuity of Operations)
- POD Sites (Points of Distribution)



MEET OUR TEAM



**Jennifer Daniels, FPEM
Director**

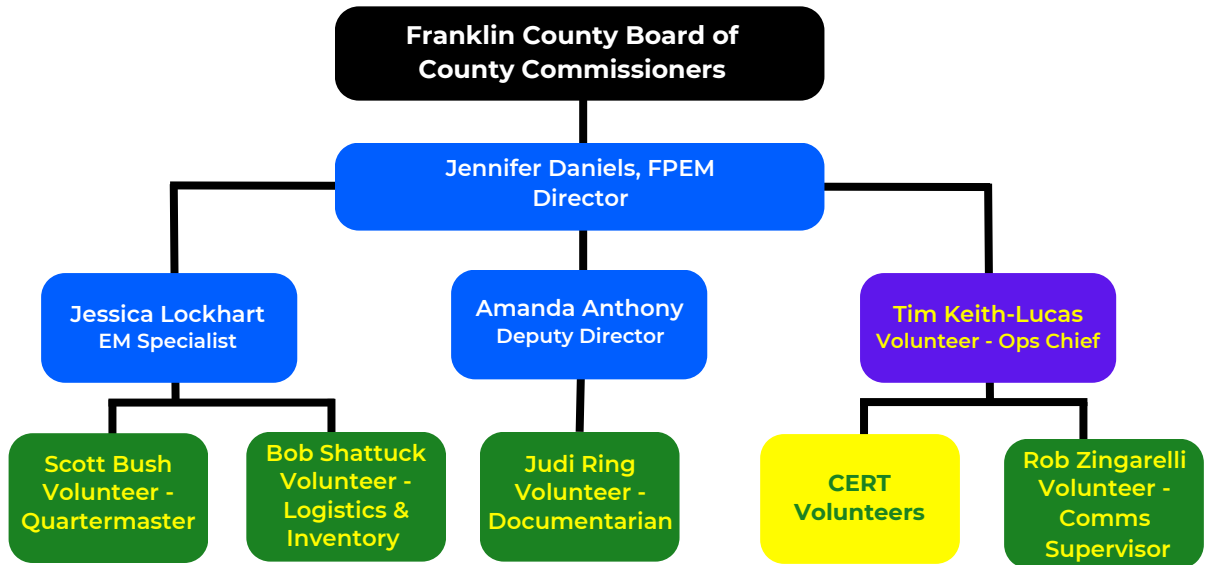


**Amanda Anthony
Deputy Director**



**Jessica Lockhart
EM Specialist**

DEPARTMENTAL STRUCTURE



FY 22-25 STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Jennifer Daniels - FPEM (*Florida Professional Emergency Manager*) Re-Certification 2024, FEPA Certification Commissioner & Co-Chair of Annual Planning Committee, FEMA APS (*Advanced Professional Series*), PDS (*Professional Development Series*), CPR Instructor, Ham Radio General License, Disaster Action Team

Amanda Anthony - FEMA APS (*Advanced Professional Series*), FEMA PDS (*Professional Development Series*), CPR Instructor, Ham Radio General License. In the process of obtaining - FPEM, General Instructor Certification, Disaster Action Team

Jessica Lockhart - 2024 FEMA PDS (*Professional Development Series*), In the process of obtaining - FEMA APS(*Advanced Professional Series*), Ham Radio Tech License, CPR Instructor, Damage Assessment Team

Volunteer Staff



Tim Keith-Lucas
Operations Chief

***ALL DATA IS THROUGH 2024.**

5,169.25
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$163,400
TOTAL IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Monetary value of service to Franklin County @ \$31.61/Hour per Federal Rate



Judi Ring & Sophie
Documentarian & Morale

\$113,796
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS DURING BLUE SKIES

Monetary value of service to Franklin County
\$31.61/Hour per Federal Rate



3,600
VOLUNTEER HOURS BLUE SKIES



Rob Zingarelli
Communications Supervisor



Bob Shattuck
Logistics, Inventory, Assistant Chef



Scott Bush
Quartermaster



Hurricane Helene

September 23-30, 2024 | Level 1 Activation

Hurricane Helene made landfall in the Big Bend area of the Florida Gulf Coast as a Category 4 storm late in the evening of September 26, 2024. LSE was declared on 09/23/2024 at 8:00 AM. FCEM coordinated evacuations including special needs and transportation disadvantaged residents. They also coordinated with Duke Energy for power restoration, the FC Property Appraiser for damage assessment, FDL, the FC Road Department, FC Solid Waste, and debris contractors.

Winter Storm Enzo

January 20-23, 2025 | Level 1 Activation

Winter Storm Enzo brought rare, record-breaking snow to parts of the Gulf Coast, halting travel and resulting in historic snowfall totals from New Orleans to Florida. LSE was declared on 01/20/2025 at 8:00 am. Franklin County did not have accumulated snowfall; however, we did encounter issues with ice. We experienced frozen trees, vehicles, roofs, power lines, and black ice on roads. Large amounts of ice accumulation caused over 7,000 residents to be without power during these freezing temperatures. FCEM coordinated with Duke Energy for power restoration, which occurred within 36 hours.



Hurricane Debby

August 1-6, 2024 | Level 1 Activation

After making landfall in the Big Bend area of Florida as a Category 1 hurricane on August 5, Debby weakened to a tropical storm as it slowly moved across southeastern Georgia. LSE was declared on 08/02/2024 at 8:00 am. FCEM coordinated evacuations including special needs and transportation disadvantaged residents. They also coordinated with Duke Energy for power restoration, the FC Property Appraiser for damage assessment, FDL, the FC Road Department, FC Solid Waste, and debris contractors.



9 EOC ACTIVATIONS

Ian Sept. 2022

Nicole Nov. 2022

Idalia Aug. 2023

January 2024 Severe Weather

Debby Aug. 2024

Helene Sept. 2024

Milton Oct. 2024

Winter Storm Enzo Jan. 2025

Apalachicola Water Crisis June 2025



Jeanne E. Devlin
CEO

Jeanne Devlin has over 30 years of Emergency Management and Public Sector experience as both a government employee and a private contractor. Jeanne is one of the most expertly skilled FEMA grant managers in the country. She has worked directly with FEMA-HQ and with state emergency management offices in Florida, Texas, Louisiana, New Jersey, and Kentucky. Jeanne has deep substantive knowledge of all aspects of the Public Assistance program and experience with every element. There is no Public Assistance issue with which Jeanne and SGC cannot assist. Jeanne’s experience includes project management, development, and auditing, development of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program proposals under Sections 404 and 406, and research to support the development of appeals. Her duties have included analyzing and evaluating selected project applications, supporting documentation, and federal agency inspection reports for accuracy and compliance with applicable FEMA policies and procedures. Jeanne has also coordinated with FEMA compliance audits and closeout procedures to audit and close large federally funded applicant projects and state-level event grants. In several states, Jeanne has worked closely with DHS-OIG auditors to analyze and develop grant status and recommendation reports. She is also an expert in the conduct of cost-benefit analyses and financial grant and subgrant account reconciliation. With Jeanne’s extensive experience in multiple states, SGC is able to provide stellar insight and assistance to entities throughout the country.

Apalachicola Water Crisis
No DR & No EM Only LSE
June 13, 2025 | No Cat
No Declaration

Hurricane Milton
DR-4834-FL & EM-3622-FL
October 9, 2024 | Cat 3
No Declaration

Hurricane Nicole
DR-4680-FL & EM-3587-FL
November 10, 2022 | Cat 1
No Declaration

Winter Storm Enzo
No DR & No EM
January 20, 2025 | No Cat
No Declaration

January 2024 Severe Weather
No DR & No EM
January 9, 2024 | No Cat
No Declaration

Hurricane Ian
DR-4673-FL & EM-3584-FL
September 28, 2022 | Cat 4
No Declaration

\$654,249.83

Total Costs including Pending

\$571,827.77

Total Federal Share including Pending



\$42,735.50

Total State Share including Pending

Hurricane Helene
DR-4828-FL & EM-3615-FL
September 23, 2024 | Cat 4
Total Costs \$323,962.09
Federal Share \$315,009.34
State Share \$4,476.38
SB4-A Not open yet but will be req.
PENDING Total Costs \$110,167.07
PENDING Federal Share \$82,625.31
PENDING State Share \$13,770.88

Hurricane Debby
DR-4806-FL & EM-3605-FL
August 1, 2024 | Cat 1
Total Costs \$60,978.64
Federal Share \$48,782.91
State Share \$7,622.33
SB4-A Not open yet but will be req.

Hurricane Idalia
DR-4734-FL & EM-3596-FL
August 30, 2023 | Cat 3
Total Costs \$159,142.03
Federal Share \$125,410.21
State Share \$16,865.91
SB4-A requested - Pending
PENDING SB4-A \$16,865.91

PROGRAMS

DUTY OFFICER PROGRAM

FCEM staff members participate in a two-week rotation to answer any questions from residents, visitors, and partner agencies, as well as provide after-hours emergency response, as needed. This is a 24/7 on-call rotation.

LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY

Franklin County, Florida, is threatened by a number of different types of natural, technological, and societal or human-caused hazards. These hazards endanger the health and safety of the population of the county, jeopardize its economic vitality, and imperil the quality of its environment. Because of the importance of avoiding or minimizing vulnerability to these hazards, the public and private sector interests of Apalachicola, Carrabelle, and Franklin County have joined together to create a task force to undertake a comprehensive planning process that has culminated in the publication of the “Franklin County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS).”

HEALTHCARE COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (CEMP) REVIEW PROGRAM

State law requires that the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) develop and adopt minimum criteria for these CEMPs, as well as plans for emergency power generation. The law also requires that the CEMPs and emergency power plans be reviewed and approved by FCEM for compliance. These facilities include Weems Memorial Hospital and Arabella Rehabilitation.

SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY

Special needs shelters are intended to provide, to an extent, an environment that can sustain an individual's level of health. If a person is medically stable but needs help with basic tasks or uses an electronic medical device and has no other evacuation options, they should pre-register for a special needs shelter.

EVACUATION TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

If you are a resident of Franklin County and you currently do not have transportation, you may register for transportation assistance in the event of a storm. During a hurricane that requires a mandatory evacuation of the county, Franklin County Emergency Management will provide transportation for residents to get to a shelter.

CERT

Our Community Emergency Response Team is always looking for individuals who are willing to volunteer and assist our community in times of crisis. Franklin County Emergency Management uses volunteers for events, activations, and emergency operations. Our community members have a wealth of experience and training. We need members like you.

DON'T FORGET, GOING TO A SHELTER SHOULD BE A LAST RESORT!

Shelters are typically set up in schools or gymnasiums. Their primary purpose is protection rather than comfort. They offer only the most basic human necessities to ensure your survival, so don't expect a cozy experience. Not all shelters are pet-friendly, so make sure you have made arrangements for your furry family members.





COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

BUILDING RESILIENCY & GIVING BACK.



***All data is through 2024.**

45

**VOLUNTEERED
EVENTS**

11

**VOLUNTEER
CERT MEMBERS**

1569.25

**VOLUNTEER HOURS
DURING
ACTIVATIONS**

\$49,604

**IN-KIND
CONTRIBUTIONS
DURING
ACTIVATIONS**

Monetary value of service to
Franklin County
\$31.61/Hour per Federal Rate

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a community-based organization of residents who learn how to safely take emergency response actions until the professional responders arrive. The curriculum focuses on skills such as disaster preparedness, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue for trapped survivors, the incident command structure, and more. Franklin County CERT is heavily involved within our community by participating in dozens of community outreach events, providing services to non-profit organizations, and primarily supporting the EOC in both blue skies and gray skies. As of January 2023, FCEM had 1 volunteer who took on “blue sky” (non-activation) tasks, the long-time Operations Chief. Another soon joined, our Quartermaster. A CERT class held in February 2023 in Lanark Village surprisingly produced an entire group of people who regularly come to the EOC and work on projects. Today our “blue sky” volunteers include:

- Judi Ring, retired State Librarian, Documentarian and CERT leader
- Tim Keith-Lucas, retired college Professor, Operations Chief
- Scott Bush, retired Air Force logistics specialist, Quartermaster
- Bobbi Trickett, Retired Chef, Head Chef
- Robin Gibson, retired UPS driver, Vehicle Maintenance
- Allen Sanders, retired property maintenance, Buildings & Grounds
- Rob Zingarelli, retired physicist, Communications Supervisor
- Debi Jordan, retired singer, Video and Writing Specialist
- Tony Johnson and Myrtice Wynn, Radio Operators
- Bob and Melissa Richardson, Logistics & Operations
- Bob Shattuck, Logistics, Inventory, & Assistant Chef
- Devin Daniels, Video, Photography
- Honorary CERT Member Connor Beau Millender, 9 years old, who helped raise over \$500 for our CERT Team.

Each of these wonderful people takes on specific tasks that further the development of FCEM and the protection of Franklin County. Writing this report is an example. They each have specific roles during activation and are in turn supported by “general purpose” CERT volunteers. With only three professional staff, these volunteers are the key to the rapid development of FCEM over the last two years.



VOLUNTEER FLORIDA AWARD WINNER TIM KEITH-LUCAS



Tim Keith-Lucas, Volunteer, CERT Member, Ops Chief, designated Coffee Maker, knower of all things, and all-around amazing person, was presented with Volunteer Florida's Excellence in Volunteerism Award in 2024.

Volunteer Florida recognizes and celebrates outstanding volunteers through its Excellence in Volunteerism Awards program. These awards honor individuals and organizations who demonstrate exceptional dedication and service to their communities through volunteerism. The awards highlight the impact of volunteerism in Florida and encourage continued engagement in service. Tim has been a volunteer with Franklin County Emergency Management (FCEM) since 2012. He not only volunteers for FCEM, but he has also volunteered for the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association and is now the Vice Chair. He is also a 4th generation academic and a Professor of Psychology, Emeritus, at Sewanee. He has managed the Primate Research Program on St. Catherine's Island, was a pilot, a Sheriff's Deputy, and a volunteer EMT and firefighter. He also spent 12 years building his own boat. Tim donates his very valuable time to FCEM at least 2 days a week. When the EOC is activated, Tim is the Ops Chief. During blue skies, Tim works on many projects including designing the new EOC, taking the lead role in redefining our CERT Program, and organizing Ham Radio volunteers to establish a form of radio communications. He is the first to volunteer for any outreach opportunity, providing first aid to anyone attending. Tim is a brilliant man, and to say he is an asset to Franklin County is minimal. Tim is the volunteer that every organization wishes they had.





CERT VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



EOC MOBILE COMMAND



In September 2024, FCEM purchased a 35' travel trailer from Gulf County Emergency Management. We have converted it into a Mobile Command Trailer, equipped as a replacement for the EOC if the building is destroyed or has to be evacuated, and as a mobile command during activations such as a lost person search in Tate's Hell Forest. The conversion is based on sleeping and supporting a team of six workers (Director, Coordinator, Special Needs Coordinator, Operations Chief, Scribe, and Lead Radio Operator). Desk space and a sleeping area are included for each. The trailer is equipped with a meeting table, projection screen, LED status monitors, printer, and radio station. Starlink and radio antennas are mounted on the outside. With its own kitchen, bathroom, water, and power supply, the trailer can function as an EOC in a very small space. We will have to be good friends.

The Mobile Command Trailer is also intended to fulfill two other functions that are part of our mutual aid to other counties. First, it can be lent to another county as its mobile command site, should their EOC be destroyed. Second, it is intended to be paired with the clinic trailer owned by Franklin County EMS as a self-supporting ambulance and clinic site for a team of four EMS workers. The two trailers can be taken to a devastated site and quickly set up as that area's medical resource.



STARLINK INTERNET SERVICE

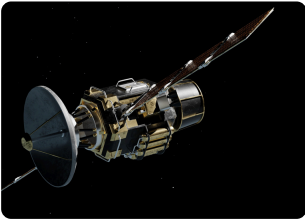
In Emergency Management, we are in the business of preparedness and redundancy. Internet access and connectivity are critical in a disaster, hence our efforts to provide additional networks to our Emergency Operations Center. Adding Starlink internet to the EOC now provides us with four levels of redundancy: Consolidated Communications, MediaCom, Verizon, and Starlink Satellite.



During Hurricane Michael, all land-based communications were lost, and internet access was regained through the assistance of the Florida National Guard. Over the last two years, FCEM has added three Starlink satellite internet systems.

- One is at the current EOC.
- One is installed in our command trailer.
- One is installed at the Road Department on Highway 98.

We hope to add a fourth for the Carrabelle Courthouse Annex next year. By moving the Command Trailer to Carrabelle or farther east, internet becomes available across the county following an infrastructure failure of the magnitude of Hurricane Michael. In particular, the critical post-storm functions of the Road Department will stay in touch with the EOC and, in turn, the state. Unless the disaster is national in scope, Starlink will supply internet access anywhere a generator can supply power.



AMATEUR RADIO OPERATIONS

Voice communications are also critical in the aftermath of a disaster, and here too FCEM has put in place multiple levels of redundancy should telephone service be lost. Working with volunteer Amateur Radio Operators, a VHF repeater system giving countywide coverage has been installed at the Carrabelle water tower. Connection into the statewide SARNET-FL UHF repeater system has been established. Finally, HF ionospheric communication is ready if all repeater infrastructure somehow fails. All three of these systems are tested weekly by volunteer operators to ensure their smooth functioning during an emergency. Read more under Tate's Hell Amateur Radio Club.



CONSOLIDATED, MEDIACOM, VERIZON

When disaster strikes, chatting our way to recovery is key! FCEM's got a plan, a backup plan, and a backup for the backup. Our internet lifeguard is Consolidated Communications, with Mediacom on standby, and Verizon swooping in via cellular towers if needed. If all else fails, we call upon the cosmic powers of Starlink and trusty Ham Radio. Hurricane Michael taught us the hard way when the county went radio silent, but fear not! We've now bolstered our arsenal with Starlink satellites for out-of-this-world communication!

TATES HELL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

14

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS



During Hurricane Michael (October 2018), FCEM lost telephone and internet communication. Never again. Since 2023, FCEM has made a concerted effort to add layers of communications protection. The biggest effort has included training amateur (ham) radio operators located in and around the edges of the county, with a radio repeater on top of a Carrabelle water tower and base stations in Lanark Village, the EOC in Apalachicola, and the mobile Command Trailer. Additional radios on the same network are in FCEM and private vehicles. When activated, these operators are the eyes and ears of the EOC, reporting conditions and problems before and after a disaster. Rob Zingarelli, FCEM's Volunteer Communications Supervisor, gave his time and knowledge to instruct eight classes and review sessions in Franklin County. Thanks to his efforts and the interest of our community, we now have many new licensed Amateur Radio Operators in Franklin County.

Amanda Anthony - General - KQ4JZF

Patricia Bloodworth - Technician - KQ4LIL

Scott Bush - Technician - KQ4JXP

Jennifer Daniels - General - KQ4JXO

Tony Johnson - General - K4TMJ

Tim Keith-Lucas - General - K4TKL

Jim Newton - Technician - KQ4NSD

Joshua Prieser - General - KQ4NPH

John Relyea - Technician - KQ4JXR

Mark Richards - Extra - K1MGY

Lee Stoker - Extra - KE4COL

Myrtis Wynn - General - KQ4LIM

George Young - General - KE4VPD

Robert Zingarelli - Extra - W4ZNG

Jessica Lockhart - Technician - KR4CHA

Judi Ring - In Progress

Bob Shatttuck - In Progress



2
In Progress

5
Technician Licenses

7
General Licenses

2
Extra Licenses



Notification & Information Methods



ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Alert Franklin is a mass notification system that allows Franklin County Emergency Management and the National Weather Service to send alerts and warning messages to your phone, email or both.

The key to connecting with our community is our alert and notification system. We use a multi-pronged approach to this, employing Everbridge/AlertFranklin system, social media, the FCEM Website and press releases. Since the inception of the program, we have seen a yearly increase in user groups, notifications, and contacts. The Alert Franklin System is invaluable tool used by FCEM to communicate with the residents and visitors of Franklin County.



18,336
**TOTAL ALERT FRANKLIN
CONTACT PATHS**

104
**TOTAL
NOTIFICATIONS
08/2023 - 02/2025**

SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

FCEM maintains and manages two social media platforms to notify and engage the public during blue skies as well as gray skies: Facebook and (X)Twitter. Facebook has seen an increase in followers. We will be focusing more this year on increasing these methods of outreach and communication.

FCEM has now linked its website with Alert Franklin, Facebook, and (X)Twitter. When a message is sent to one, it posts to all platforms, allowing for use and uniform messaging. FCEM also plans to debut our YouTube channel this year with informational videos on prevention, protection, preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery, The importance of redundancy, and how to make an emergency plan. This will give us another avenue to support our county and become a more resilient community.



New
**(X)TWITTER
@FranklinEM3236**



11,955
**FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS
@FranklinEOC**

Notification & Information Methods

FCEM WEBSITE

FCEM maintains and manages our website which can be accessed at <https://www.franklinemergencymanagement.com>. You can find information here on Alerts & Advisories, Our Programs, Public Notices, Request for Proposals, FCEM Newsletter, get assistance on Building Your Own Emergency Plan (don't forget your pet plan), and a link to assist you in signing up for Alert Franklin or our Social Media Accounts. The FCEM website is updated on a regular basis. There is also a Useful Links tab that will take you to our partners websites. Remember we are a "Whole Community"



IPAWS stands for Integrated Public Alert & Warning System. It is a national system managed by FEMA that allows authorized public safety officials to send emergency alerts and warnings to the public through various communication channels. These channels include Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on mobile phones, the Emergency Alert System (EAS) on radio and television, and NOAA Weather Radio.



WEATHERSTEM

CEO Edward Mansouri created the WeatherSTEM platform to infuse the K-12 STEM curriculum with live data collected by weather instruments, cloud cameras, agricultural probes, and other sensors. It is now also used to show live data of weather conditions throughout the world.

Through the good graces of WeatherSTEM, Mansouri, Luke Hunnewell (VP of Infrastructure), and the staff, Franklin County is now surrounded by real-time weather recording stations and cameras, all accessible to anyone through the FCEM website or by going to franklin.weatherstem.com. One set of stations covers the edge of the mainland while the other monitors the barrier islands. We plan to continue to add WeatherSTEM Stations in strategic locations



This is the WeatherSTEM Portal for Franklin County, Florida

These are the active WeatherSTEM sites for Franklin County, Florida:

	FSU Coastal and Marine Lab Current temperature: 65.9 °F
	FSW Franklin Alligator Point Current temperature: 64.9 °F
	FSW Franklin County EOC Current temperature: 68.2 °F
	FSW Franklin Dog Island Current temperature: 62.2 °F
	FSW Island View Park Current temperature: 65.1 °F
	FSW Ochlockonee Boat Ramp Current temperature: 67.6 °F
	FSW St. George Island Lighthouse Current temperature: 67.4 °F
	St. George Island Bridge Current temperature: 64.2 °F

Notification & Information Methods

Dedicated to the prevention, mitigation, preparation for, response to, and recovery from both man-made and natural disasters.

Emergency Management WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

EOC News MAY 30TH, 2025

Franklin County: Hurricane Season Is Here—Are You Prepared?

The time has arrived once again—Hurricane season is upon us. Now is the moment to ensure you are ready.

Review Your Emergency Plan:

- Take a moment to revisit your emergency plan.
- Ensure your family understands what to do and where to go if a storm approaches.
- Stock up on essentials: water, non-perishable food, flashlights, batteries, and necessary medications for at least 3-7 days.

Know Your Evacuation Route:

- If you reside in an evacuation zone, familiarize yourself with your route and identify a safe destination.
- Discuss plans with friends or family in safer areas and arrange to stay with them if needed.
- If you need special assistance or transportation, register with our office asap, or your medical provider.

Safeguard Important Documents:

- Keep vital documents, such as IDs, insurance papers, and medical records, secure and dry in a waterproof folder or bag.
- If possible, create digital copies as a backup.
- Charge your phones and consider having a battery backup or portable power bank available.

Don't Forget Your Pets:

- Ensure your pet's have food, water, identification, and a safe place to stay.
- Remember that many shelters may not accept animals, so plan ahead for their safety as well.

Stay Informed:

- Sign up for Alert Franklin and follow reputable news sources and government updates.
- A battery-powered radio is also a good backup in case of power outages.

Check on Your Neighbors:

- Reach out to your neighbors, particularly the elderly or those who may require additional assistance.
- A brief conversation now could make a significant difference later.

Preparation is more than just a checklist—it's a peace of mind. Let's take care of ourselves, our families, and our community. Franklin County is resilient. Together, we will be ready.

If you need assistance in creating your plan, don't worry—we're here to help! Our Disaster Survival Guide and Pet Guide can support you in developing your plans. Simply scan the QR Codes below to access the guides, or reach out to our Emergency Management Specialist, Jessica Lockhart, at jessical@franklincountyflorida.com to receive a copy via email.



EOC News

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 our Multi Year Strategic Plan (MYSP), attending trainings, updating our MOU's.
- Amanda Anthony, the Coordinator, is working on reviewing CEMP's and our updating our website.
- Jessica Lockhart, the EM Specialist, is working on updating our office's finance and grant books, 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 preparations, equipping our Mobile Command Trailer and preparing our MYSP.
- 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.
- Jodi 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 Zingales, 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 chainaws.
- 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
Start of Hurricane Season		June 1, 2025	All Day	
Juneteenth	Holiday	June 19, 2025	All Day	
4 th of July	Holiday	July 4, 2025	All Day	

FRANKLIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

FCEM debuted its newsletter on November 5, 2023, and has published 51 issues since that time. Our goal is to use our newsletter, which is published on our website, social media, etc., to inform Franklin County about steps to plan and prepare for a disaster, mitigate against disaster, respond to, and become more resilient when recovering from a disaster, and prevent disaster whenever possible. We also want to ensure our community is aware of all the programs we offer, who our stakeholders and partners are, and how to become more involved yourself.

51 ISSUES AS OF 07/10/2025

EOC News

Emergency Management Staff, Volunteers & Stakeholders

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

Franklin County Emergency Management Director, Jennifer Daniels



My goal is to help Franklin County become as resilient as possible in the face of hurricanes and other disasters. I believe in a whole community approach, one where we all work together to recover from a disaster in our county.

I was born and raised in Franklin County. My mother was the Property Appraiser, and my father was a manager for one of the main telecommunications companies. I trained my two sons here with my husband. His father was the City Clerk for Carrabelle for many years. I grew up with most of the leaders of Franklin County. I am proud to be a Franklin County citizen.

I began my career in EM more than 10 years ago and moved up the ranks until I became Director two years ago. I was honored to be succeeded by the previous Director. I am a certified Florida Professional Emergency Manager. I serve on the Certification Committee for FEPA (Florida Emergency Professional Association) and have served in the past as an Area Governor.

The staff at Franklin County Emergency Management, Amanda Anthony, Coordinator and Jessica Lockhart, EM Specialist, are amazing. They help educate our residents in how to protect themselves by being prepared, having a plan, registering for programs that will assist them, and keeping informed via Alert Franklin. We have been blessed by a corps of volunteers who help us every week and during activations.

During the last two years we have added county-wide radio communications based on a repeater in Carrabelle. We have purchased Shred-it for several locations in the county. We have also purchased and equipped a mobile command trailer to allow us to respond from a base outside the county as in Tami Hall. We are preparing for our new EOC building which will be located on Hwy 65.

Franklin County is a community that is dear to my heart because I call it home. I will continue to serve it to the best of my ability. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to do so. As always, we are here to serve you.

Preparedness Programs

Franklin County offers several programs designed to help during a disaster, including the Special Needs Registry and Evacuation Transportation Assistance.

Special Needs Registry

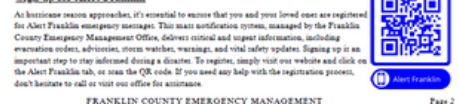
This registry is for individuals with medical conditions or disabilities who require assistance with basic tasks or rely on electronic medical devices and lack other evacuation options. Signing up does not obligate you to go to a special needs shelter, but it provides the option of necessary. These registered will receive a call from the Department of Health before a return to check on their evacuation plans, whether they wish to go to a shelter, and if they require transportation assistance to a shelter.

Evacuation Transportation Assistance

This program is available for Franklin County residents without transportation, offering them the opportunity to be taken to a designated shelter if an evacuation order is issued. Individuals on the list will be contacted to confirm their desire to evacuate and will receive instructions regarding pick-up arrangements. Both programs are essential resources during a disaster. It is crucial for you or your loved ones who may require assistance to register now. Don't wait for a disaster to make transportation is vital. To sign up, visit our website and click on either the Special Needs Registry tab or the Evacuation Transportation tab, or simply scan the QR code. If you need assistance with the registration process, please feel free to call or visit our office for help.

Sign-up for Alert Franklin

As hurricane season approaches, it's essential to ensure that you and your loved ones are registered for Alert Franklin emergency messages. This mass notification system, managed by the Franklin County Emergency Management Office, delivers critical and urgent information, including evacuation orders, shelter locations, weather watches, warnings, and vital safety updates. Signing up is an important step to stay informed during a disaster. To register, simply visit our website and click on the Alert Franklin tab, or scan the QR code. If you need any help with the registration process, don't hesitate to call or visit our office for assistance.



FRANKLIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Weather Outlook

	Sat. May 31	Sun. June 1	Mon. June 2	Tues. June 3	Wed. June 4
Weather					
Temp. (F)	67 / 85	70 / 85	71 / 86	75 / 87	75 / 85
	Thurs. June 5	Fri. June 6	Sat. June 7	Sun. June 8	Mon. June 9
Weather					
Temp. (F)	75 / 87	76 / 88	76 / 88	76 / 88	76 / 88

EOC Tip of the Week

Reliable Sources

Please ensure that you are actively listening to and utilizing trustworthy sources, such as:

- NWS Tallahassee
- NOAA
- WOVS - Oyster Radio
- Appalachicola Times
- Franklin County Emergency Management
- Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM)

Let Us Know What You Think

Address:
22 August Road
Apalachicola, FL 32320

Phone:
(904) 633-9977

Email:
info@franklincountyflorida.com

Website:
www.franklincountyflorida.com

Local Media:
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FranklinEOC>

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
9:00 - 16:00

Franklin County
Emergency Management

FRANKLIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

- **FEPA Annual Training and Conference**
- **FEPA Mid-Year**
- **Governor's Hurricane Conference**
- **EM Day at the Capitol**
- **Directors Meeting**
Region 2 Quarterly Meeting
- **FEPA Certification Commission**
FEPA Annual Planning Committee
- **MOU Renewal Meetings**
Transportation, Damage Assessment, Etc.
- **Contractors & Sub-Contractors Meeting**
Debris, Recovery, Etc.
- **Meeting with ESF's, Departments, Municipalities, Stakeholders, Etc.**

- **Fire Departments**
- **Red Cross**
- **Road Department**
- **Solid Waste**
- **Sheriff's Dept.**
- **EMS**
- **Dept. of Health**
- **Forestry**

- **FWC**
- **FC Property Appraiser**
- **FC Schools**
- **FC Library**
- **Apalach Library**
- **City of Carrabelle**
- **City of Apalachicola**
- **Salvation Army**

- **Faith Based Org.**
- **Non-Profit Org.**
- **CERT Team**
- **Volunteer Org.**
- **Ham Radio Ops.**
- **Juvare, Web EOC**
- **Transportation**
- **RDSTF**



OUTREACH EVENTS

Community involvement is the key to building trust with the residents and visitors. We value building relationships with our community and its partners while providing valuable preparedness information.



24 OUTREACH EVENTS

***All data is through
2024.**



Community outreach is the practice of conducting local public awareness activities in the Franklin County community. FCEM's outreach program utilizes our website, social media, presentations by FCEM staff, and numerous other activities, including interviews with media during activations.

There were 24 in-person community outreach events throughout Franklin County from 2022 to 2024. Some of those events included preparedness booths, such as the Franklin County Build A Disaster Bucket Event, the Franklin County Sheriff's Department Fall Festival & Kids and Cops Day, Career Day, the Carrabelle Riverfront Festival, Holiday on the Harbor, the Alligator Point Homeowners Association, and the FSU Marine Lab.



Emergency Management provides local presentations on preparedness and best practices, including guest lectures for the St. George Island Civic Club, ECCC, Chillas Hall, and Storm Season Radio Preparedness at the Apalachicola Library.



The team provided professional presentations at the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) Annual Meeting, including Rural Counties and Response to Hurricane Ian.

In Franklin County, we understand the importance of providing and attending year-round training. Our department is dedicated to continuing the education of our staff. Below are a few of the trainings that FCEM staff has hosted or attended from 2022-2024. We have the ability to do this by working with our partners, stakeholders and community to provide important educational resources that benefit Franklin County.



CPR



STATE FROC 602



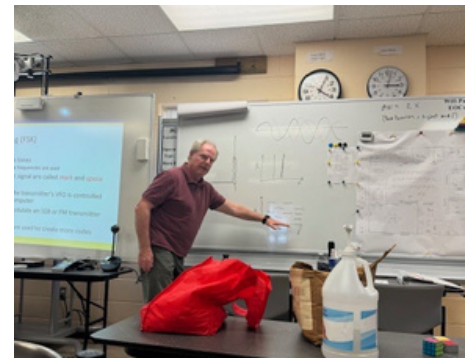
SKY WARN SPOTTER



CERT



G-400 ADV ICS

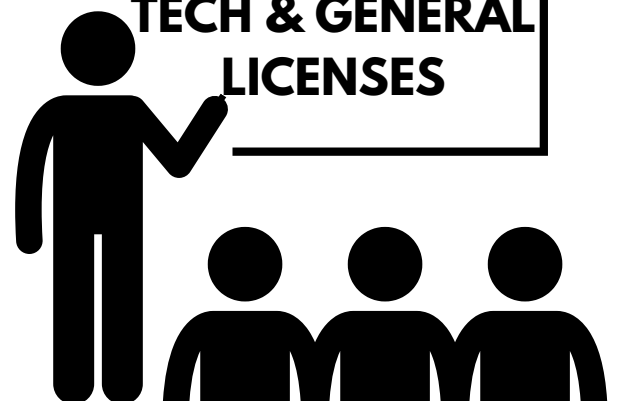


**HAM RADIO
TECH & GENERAL
LICENSES**



**G-402
ICS OVERVIEW**

100+
Total
Trainings
Participated
In



An emergency management exercise is a scenario-based activity that tests and improves an organization's ability to respond to a disaster. Exercises can help identify gaps in resources and improve communication and coordination.

INCLUDING THE LISTED EXERCISES BELOW, FCEM STAFF MUST COMPLETE A MINIMUM OF 3 EXERCISES PER YEAR PER GRANT (EMPG) PAID STAFF MEMBER.

COMMUNICATION EXERCISE

Developed and delivered by the Communications Supervisor Rob Zingarelli, Operations Chief Tim Keith-Lucas, and the EOC Staff to test the capabilities of our Mobile Command Communications and our radio systems, including the repeater at the Carrabelle Water Tower. On Saturday, May 31st, Arc Thames, operating from the State EOC, coordinated an EOC-to-EOC communications exercise over shortwave radio, across a variety of frequency bands shown in Fig. 1. EOC Staff, CERT Volunteers, and Commissioner Cheryl Sanders participated in the exercise.

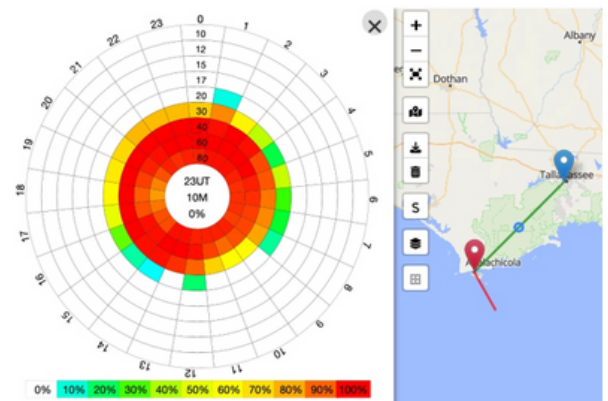
Successful contacts were made on the 80 and 40 meter bands, as expected. On 20 meters, there was a net in progress on the previously arranged frequency. Propagation modeling (shown in Fig. 2) indicated a very low probability of making contact with the State EOC at 20 meters and higher frequency bands, so having achieved success on 80 and 40 meters, we moved on with our regular Saturday morning activities.

Figure 1. Pre-arranged bands for the exercise. The 20m frequency, 14.300 MHz, was slightly changed to 14.303 for future exercises in order to avoid conflict with the long-standing Maritime Mobile net.

Band	RX	Mode/Tone	TX	Time Active**	Notes
80M	3750	LSB	3940	0900-0915 ET	Primary Evening
40M	7240	LSB	7197	0915-0930 ET	Primary Daytime
20M	14300	USB	14300	0930-0945 ET	As needed due to propagation
17M	18160	USB	18160	0945-1000 ET	As needed due to propagation
15M	21360	USB	21360	1000-1015 ET	As needed due to propagation



Figure 2. Propagation predictions for 5/31/2025 made using VOACAR.com.



ACTIVE ASSAILANT

This Full Scale Exercise was like a superhero team-up, zeroing in on sharing intel, pooling resources, and coordinating like pros during an active shooter scenario. Thanks to the fabulous collaboration between the Walton County School District, Walton County Sheriff's Office, Walton County Fire Rescue, and Walton County Emergency Management, this exercise was a smashing success! It sparked lively discussions among all the players and county partners, proving teamwork makes the dream work! Our own Coordinator, Amanda Anthony, assisted the FDOH Staff in performing moulage on the participants to make it more lifelike. Moulage, in the context of healthcare and emergency training, refers to the art of applying realistic-looking injuries, wounds, or medical conditions to mannequins or live actors using makeup, prosthetics, and other materials. It's a technique used to enhance the realism of simulations, allowing medical and emergency personnel to practice their assessment and treatment skills in a controlled, yet lifelike, environment.



Carrabelle POD & Build Your Disaster Bucket

Conceived and orchestrated by the dedicated FCEM staff, alongside the county's activation team and esteemed partners, this exercise unfolded a simulated Point of Distribution (POD) at the historic Old Carrabelle High School. The City of Carrabelle staff along with EOC staff and volunteers, were able to practice setting up and staffing a POD. Over seven pallets of MREs and refreshing water were graciously distributed to residents, all while imparting wisdom on the art of preparedness. In harmony with this POD exercise, FCEM staff also hosted the Build Your Disaster Bucket Event.

"Build Your Disaster Bucket," the ultimate prep party! This program is all about decking out our residents with the coolest disaster kits to brave any storm, fire, or unexpected calamity. Our debut bash was in 2022, and the sequel on May 3, 2025, was a blockbuster hit! We're itching to throw another fabulous event soon.

But here's the twist: we need some ace sidekicks! Calling all businesses, organizations, and community superheroes to jump on board and help us make it happen again.

Our goal? To arm every household with must-have tools and resources for ultimate safety swagger. We're on the lookout for donations of first-aid kits, flashlights, and more. Plus, you can jazz things up with your booths or lend a helping hand on the day. Spread the word far and wide, and let's get everyone hyped to join in!

Together, we'll build a mighty, prepared community! Your involvement doesn't just boost the event's awesomeness; it shows you're all in for our residents' safety. Let's team up and make sure every family is "Storm-Ready". Thanks for your steadfast support in keeping our community safe and sound!



EOC STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, & PARTNERS



EOC Equipment Maintained

Response Vehicles

- 2019 Ford F250
- 20XX Ford Expedition



Trailers

- 5 Enclosed Trailers
 - Mobile Command Support Trailer
 - Event/Outreach Trailer
 - Chainsaw Response Trailer
 - Mini Trailer for Supply Transport
 - Supply Trailer
- Flat Bed/Utility Trailer for Supply Transport (6x12)
- Mobile Command
- CERT Trailer



Other Equipment

- 4K Forklift
- 1 Large 1000 watt Prism Light
- 3 Small 250 watt Prism Light
- 22hp Toro Riding Mower
- 2 Large Grey Fans



Generators

- 4 Generac 5K Gas Generators
- 2 Generac 5K Propane Generators
- 1 Generac 17.5K Gas Generator



Information Kiosk

- EOC Apalachicola
- Post Office in Apalachicola
- Courthouse Annex in Eastpoint
- Visitors Center St. George Island
- Courthouse Annex in Carrabelle
- Chamber in Carrabelle
- Chillas Hall in Lanark Village

Message Board Signs

- 2 at EOC in Apalachicola
- 2 at the Road Dept in Eastpoint
- 2 at the Parks & Rec in Carrabelle

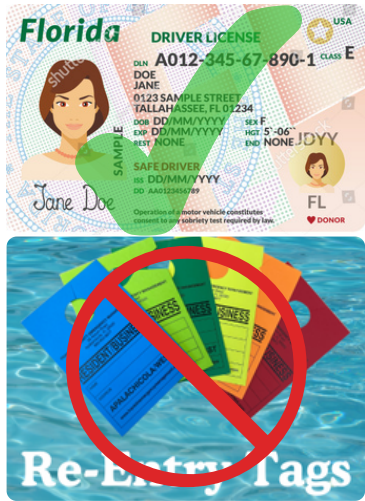


SHIPPING CONTAINER STORAGE

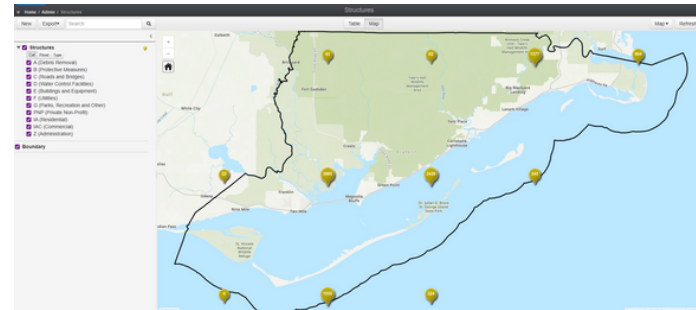
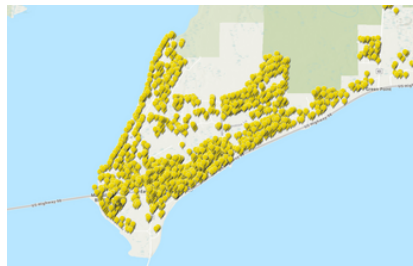
Faced with a critical shortage of storage space that made our hangar/warehouse barely able to accommodate supplies delivered from the state during activations, FCEM added two 40-foot shipping containers. They will store records and equipment that we need to keep but do not expect to use frequently. These containers will also be used to store supplies, such as food, water, tarps, mop-out kits, sandbags, etc., that are needed immediately following a storm.



NO MORE RE-ENTRY TAGS



During Hurricane Michael, we issued over 10,000 Re-Entry Tags. During other storms, at least 2,500+ tags were issued for each storm. The population of Franklin County is approximately 12,000. Where are all these tags? After speaking with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and re-evaluating this program, FCEM has decided to put the Re-Entry Tag program to bed. Now, you will present your driver's license (DL) upon request for re-entry. If your DL does not have your Franklin County address, you must have proof of residency or ownership to present to law enforcement upon request.



CRISIS TRACK

Crisis Track is a disaster management software that helps responders conduct formal damage assessments and cost estimates, estimate debris removal, assist with resource management, and provide overall situational awareness of a disaster's impact. Using GIS mapping, County Property Appraiser's data, and FEMA cost codes, damage assessments can now provide the cost of a disaster's impact in real-time. Additionally, the platform provides a self-reporting tool for residents and business owners to document their property. This information is critical when coordinating recovery efforts with the State to request a FEMA declaration. The maps in the Crisis Track system will allow the Damage Assessment Team (Franklin County Property Appraiser's Office) to zoom in to see each and every home in Franklin County, assess the damage, and upload (using a regular cellular link or Starlink if needed) the appraisal along with photos.

TIMELINE CHECKLIST ADDED

In 2024, FCEM adopted an Activation Checklist, with items to complete starting before the hurricane season, such as filling gas cans with fresh fuel, to items to be completed when a storm is first identified as a threat and each day as a storm approaches. The list is long and detailed and has already been modified, with items added based on our experience.



EOC COLOR CODED VESTS

In 2024, the EOC collectively decided to color-code reflective vests for workers of all sorts to wear during activations. Eight different colors denote Honored Guests, Staff, Operations Chief, Lead CERT volunteers, General CERT Volunteers, County Employees (ESFs), Contractors, and Media. Even our Yorkie mascot Sophie has a vest. Everyone in the building during an activation is labeled. With our first activation after assigning vests, it was suddenly easy to tell who was what and who was doing what in a very crowded and loud building. It was an even more successful idea than we had hoped.

VEST COLORS

IN THE OPERATIONS CENTER ALL PERSONNEL ARE COLOR CODED BY ROLE

BLACK - COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, OTHER HONORED GUESTS

BLUE - FCEM DIRECTOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR, AND SPECIAL NEEDS COORDINATOR

PURPLE - OPERATIONS CHIEF

GREEN - LEAD VOLUNTEERS, QUARTER MASTER, SCRIBE AND RADIO SUPERVISOR

YELLOW - OUR WONDERFUL CERT VOLUNTEERS

RED - EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS (ESF'S), USUALLY COUNTY EMPLOYEES OR DEPT HEADS IN THE OPS ROOM

NAVY - CONTRACTORS, SUCH AS PA REIMBURSEMENT, DEBRIS REMOVAL, ETC.

PINK - MEDIA SUCH AS TV REPORTERS, RADIO, NEWSPAPERS

QR CODES EVERYWHERE

In 2024, FCEM started putting QR codes throughout Franklin County for individuals to scan to sign up for Alert Franklin. These QR codes can be found on gas pumps, checkout registers, in restrooms, etc.—anywhere we can get the owners' permission. This allows for quick, easy access to Alert Franklin. Just open your camera on your cell phone and hold it up to the QR code, as if you are taking a picture of it. A link will pop up, and you can click it. It will take you to the site to sign up for Alert Franklin notifications. We will continue to distribute these all over Franklin County.





2 NEW HOT WATER HEATERS

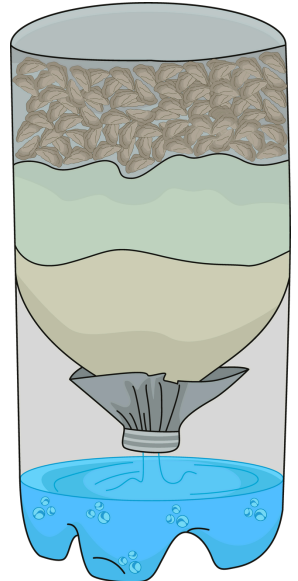
Franklin County CERT Member and FCEM Quartermaster installed a new 80-gallon hot water heater for the shower and a 6-gallon hot water heater for the kitchen sink and dishwasher. When the EOC is activated for a disaster, we usually have approximately 30 staff, volunteers, essential support function personnel, and partners who are working 24/7. We provide hot showers and meals for this personnel.



NEW WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM



In June of 2025, Franklin County installed a new Water Filtration System. This new system is large enough to move to the new EOC, which will be on Hwy 65 in Eastpoint. It includes a 1.5 x 3 Carbon Sulfur Filter, a 1.5 Water Softener, and 3 Tankless Reverse Osmosis drinking water systems with standard faucets, a 10-year warranty on equipment, and a 1-year maintenance agreement with salt provided. Having potable water at the EOC, especially when we are activated during a disaster, is a necessity for healthy staff and volunteers. Culligan installed the system the same day the Board of County Commissioners approved the purchase.



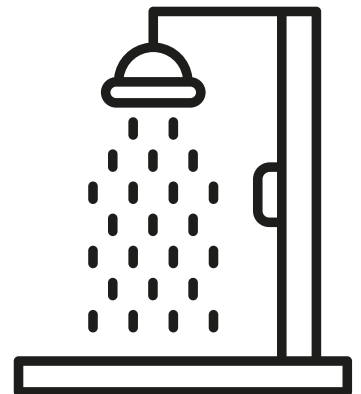
ICE MACHINE

Franklin County CERT Member and FCEM Quartermaster installed a new ice machine at the EOC for use as needed at events, outreach, or activations.



NEW SHOWER INSTALLED

Franklin County CERT Member and FCEM Quartermaster installed a new shower at the EOC for staff and volunteers to use during activations.



NEW EOC (Emergency Operations Center)

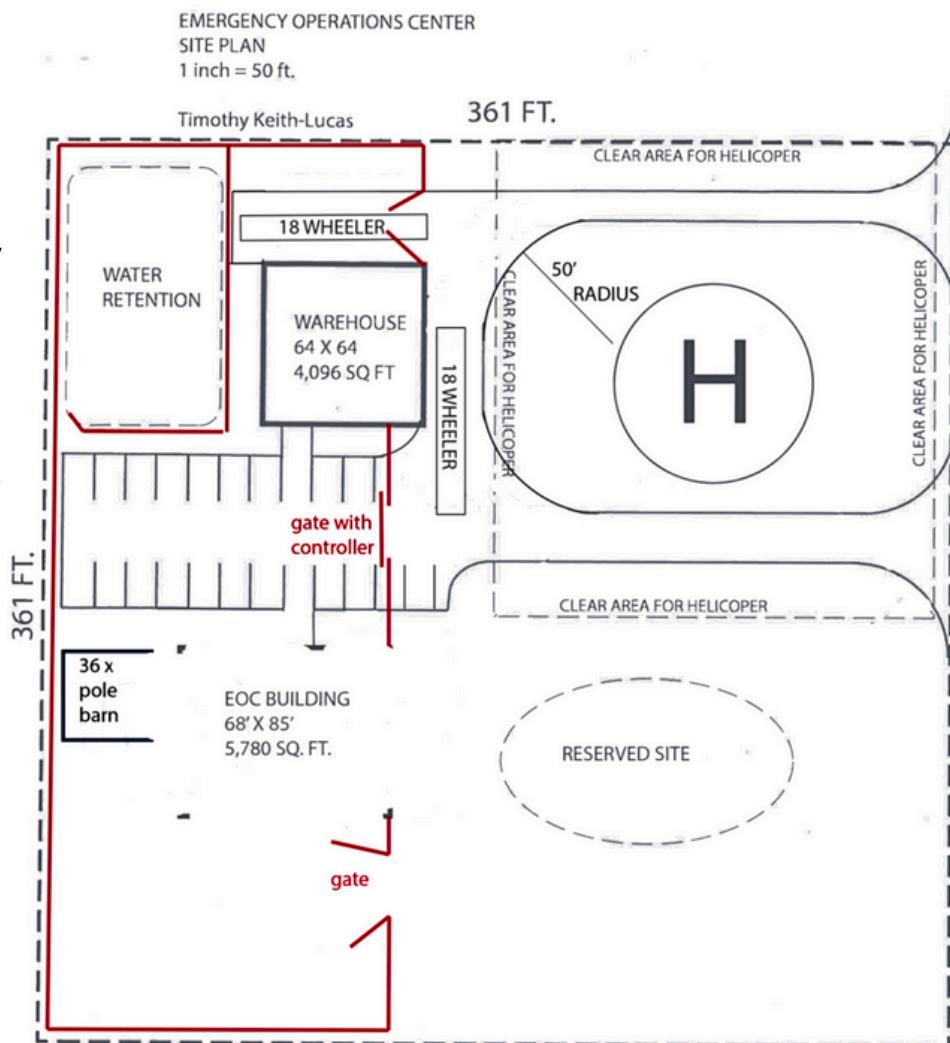
FCEM has sought a new Emergency Operations Center since early 2013. The present building is a retired NOAA radar station that has not met our needs in any activation or even daily use. It is not just a matter of space. Because the county is stretched seventy miles along one very vulnerable highway and is divided into sections by vulnerable bridges, the thirty or so people who staff an activation (staff, volunteers, county specialist employees, and outside agencies) have to live at the EOC for an extended period of time. For these and other reasons, we need a building that incorporates features not found in the generic EOC design. Our plans have been refined over twelve years. We finally have an accepted plan, funding, and a site, and we are waiting for engineering drawings. The next few years should include a transition to a new building about one-half mile north of Highway 98 on Highway 65.

Features of the new EOC

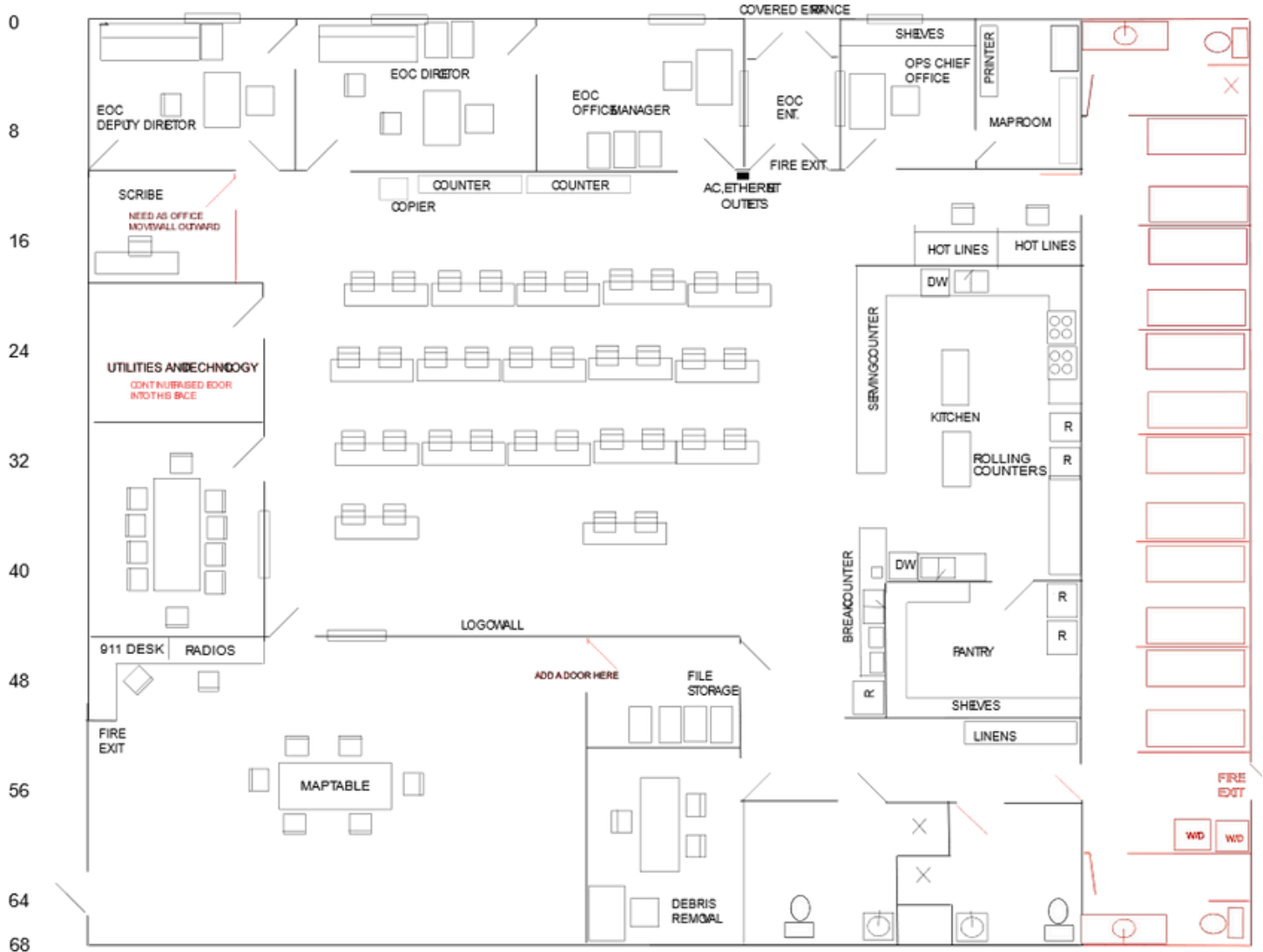
With the EOC moving from the Apalachicola Airport to Highway 65, we gain centrality in the county but lose the airport for air deliveries. We need a heliport large enough to deliver supplies by Chinook helicopter, as in Hurricane Michael. We chose the Army's Operations Resupply standard for construction. We will also make it available for other emergencies, like EMS Air Support, when the EOC is closed, including at night.

The current EOC has 4,000 square feet of storage space spread over six structures, plus another 640 square feet in two shipping containers. The new EOC includes very little storage because of the cost per square foot of that building. We will combine all storage in one 4,000 square foot warehouse with immediate access to the helipad and delivery trucks. This space will be used as the Local Staging Area (LSA) for disasters, along with other needs.

During Hurricane Michael, we fed approximately 60 workers and housed about 30. With 10 beds and one shower, staff were displaced from offices that became bunk space, and the sewer system overflows every time we activate. The new EOC includes a kitchen that can feed 60 people, 24 bunks, and four toilet/showers. All offices will have roll-away beds and wardrobes for their occupants.



NEW EOC (Emergency Operations Center)



While the EOC is legally a secure building, activations include many visitors whom we welcome but cannot allow access to confidential operations. The space becomes noisy as well. Therefore, we keep the operations room separate from the public/classroom/dining room even in our current crowded space. In the new EOC, the operations room and the “Big” room are isolated from each other with a locked door. In the new EOC, the offices for the three professional staff interconnect. The Director’s office is slightly larger than at present, since that space is often used for small meetings. One office, plus the office of the volunteer Operations Chief, can monitor the front door and control access for visitors.

The new EOC is central to the county and near several other county offices. The three-acre site leaves space for one or two more county offices. Recent technology allows keycard control from a smartphone application and greatly reduces the cost. The new EOC will be equipped with a system that gives professional staff and some volunteer staff full access to the building and the warehouse, while other volunteers have access according to their roles, and ESFs have access to the Operations Room.



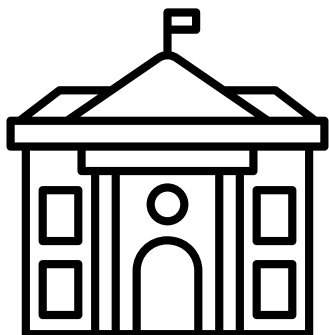
Two years ago (January 2023) Pamela Brownell, the long-time Director of FCEM, retired and was succeeded by Jennifer Daniels. Pam left a smoothly running and very professional organization to her replacement. She had also mentored Jenni to take over the office. With a smooth transition, Jenni was free to build on Pam's good work without any rebuilding or reorganizing and has done so with great energy and creativity. Moving towards the future, FCEM plans to focus on a few of the following programs:



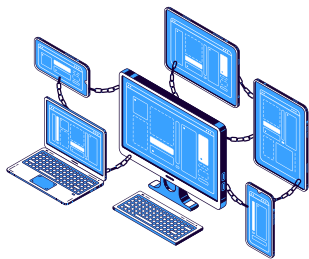
- **Faith Based Initiatives:** A major goal for FCEM in the next few years is building protection for Franklin County residents through our coordination with church groups and non-profits in the county. These organizations could supply cold weather warming stations, help feed their communities following a disaster, and can report needs such as individuals at risk and needing assistance to the EOC. These groups are engaged in our community on a regular basis and know the needs of their members and congregations.



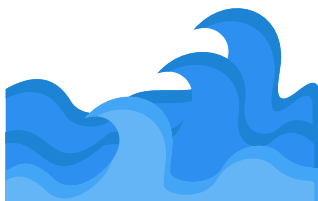
- **Vacation Rental Property Programs:** Hurricane season is during the prime of vacation season for Franklin County. What do rental agencies tell vacation renters about hurricanes? We plan to establish communication between agencies, renters, and the EOC to better prepare for when a storm approaches. We plan to establish a disaster plan for notifications, information, evacuation, etc., to make sure our vacationers are prepared if a disaster happens.



- **Town Hall Meetings:** FCEM wants to hear from our communities in Franklin County. We need to know how we can best support them both in preparation and in recovery from a disaster. Each community (Apalachicola, Eastpoint, St. George Island, Carrabelle, Lanark Village, Dog Island, and Alligator Point) has different needs. We propose to deliver a series of Town Hall Meetings to listen to our citizens and then tell them what FCEM can do to assist them. We have also added a link to our website for public input or suggestions.



- **FCEM IT Network:** In our new EOC, we want to establish our own network, so every file is saved to memory away from the original computer. That will give us a continuous backup of all digital work at the EOC. Currently, the EOC files are individually backed up to a cloud-based storage. We plan to establish this network where each of our computers is backed up nightly to remove that extra task of individual file backup.



- **Evacuation and Surge Zones:** FCEM plans to expand our education of residents regarding the surge zone they live in, their resulting evacuation priority, and their best routes out of Franklin County. All of the county is in either Zone A or B. Presently, we call Zone A “low-lying areas, barrier islands, etc.” By sharing a surge map with residents, we believe that we can educate them on the risks they face in a storm.



- **Radio Base Stations:** Our amateur radio operator system is up and running, with a repeater in Carrabelle and base stations at the EOC and Chillas Hall in Lanark Village. Our next step will be to add base stations at the western and eastern ends of the county. Then we will be assured of radio communication from mobile radios even if the radio cannot “break” the repeater or the repeater fails.



- **Reunification Plan:** Both pets and people need to get back together after a disaster. During our town hall meetings, we will explore how we could establish community stations for getting back together. We will also examine services we might offer to protect pets that might be stray following an evacuation. That will include keeping our guide to supporting pets in a disaster up to date.

FCEM continues to look towards the future. As Franklin County continues to change, improve, grow, and become more resilient, so do our plans and programs.



OPERATIONS

CENTER

