



2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

*By failing to prepare,
you are preparing to fail.*

~ Benjamin Franklin

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 damage to the environment caused by natural, technological, and human-caused disasters affecting Franklin County.

VISION

To draw lessons from past disasters and strive daily to enhance our readiness for future crises.

Message from the Director



Jennifer Daniels, FPEM
Director

*Emergency Management
is a Team Sport*

~ Eric Whitaker

Franklin County is more than just the place I work; it's where I grew up, raised my family, and built my career in emergency management over the last decade. Because of this, ensuring that Franklin County is safer, stronger, and more resilient isn't just my job—it's a personal mission.

No agency can handle a disaster alone. This past year, we've strengthened our partnerships with local departments, first responders, volunteer groups, businesses, and neighboring areas. These collaborations are crucial for a community-wide approach to being prepared for whatever challenges come our way. We've made strides in enhancing our emergency-response capabilities, like improving countywide radio communications and equipping volunteer fire departments with Starlink satellite internet. We've also upgraded our Mobile Command Trailer and continued working on Franklin County's new Emergency Operations Center on Highway 65, which will be a game-changer for us. Our efforts aren't just about equipment; they're also about empowering our community. We've been educating residents and visitors on preparedness, evacuation planning, and other vital programs. This helps everyone understand their risks and take charge of their own preparedness. None of this could happen without my amazing team. Amanda Anthony, our Deputy Director,

and Emergency Management Specialist Jessica Lockhart are incredible in supporting our programs and educating the public. Our volunteers are also a huge part of our success, offering their time and expertise throughout the year.

I'm proud to be Franklin County's Emergency Management Director and a certified Florida Professional Emergency Manager. This year, I was honored with the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce Women's Business Council Trailblazer Award. While it's a personal honor, it's a testament to our whole team's dedication.

This annual report showcases our past year's accomplishments and future goals. We're proud of what we've achieved, but we know there's always more to do. We'll keep learning, improving, and finding new ways to protect our community.

Thank you for trusting me and the Franklin County Emergency Management team. It's a privilege to serve the place I've always called home. We're here for you, always.



Jennifer Daniels, FPEM
Director

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MEET OUR TEAM

FY 25-26 STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



Jennifer Daniels, FPEM
Director

Jennifer Daniels - FPEM (*Florida Professional Emergency Manager*) Recertification 2024, FEPA (Florida Emergency Preparedness Association) Certification Commissioner, 2026 BBMCC (*Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce*) Trailblazer Award, 2026 GHC (Governors Hurricane Conference) Program Committee, FEMA APS (*Advanced Professional Series*), PDS (*Professional Development Series*), CPR Instructor, Ham Radio General License, Disaster Action Team



Amanda Anthony
Deputy Director

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



Jessica Lockhart
EM Specialist

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

Awards, Recognition, & Certifications

JENNIFER DANIELS HONORED WITH THE TRAILBLAZER AWARD

The Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce Women's Business Council presents the annual Trailblazer Award to honor outstanding women leaders in Florida's Big Bend region (including Leon, Wakulla, Franklin, Gadsden, and Jefferson counties) for their career success, community service, and leadership. The award celebrates women who lead, break barriers, and foster equity, diversity, and inclusion in local businesses and neighborhoods.



AMANDA ANTHONY RECEIVES HER FPEM

The FPEM (Florida Professional Emergency Manager) Certification is offered through the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) to recognize experienced emergency managers with advanced knowledge and skills in comprehensive disaster management. To qualify, you must have at least 4 years of full-time emergency management experience, 150 hours in emergency management training, and 50 hours in general management, a Professional Development Series certificate, and documented contributions in the field of Emergency Management.



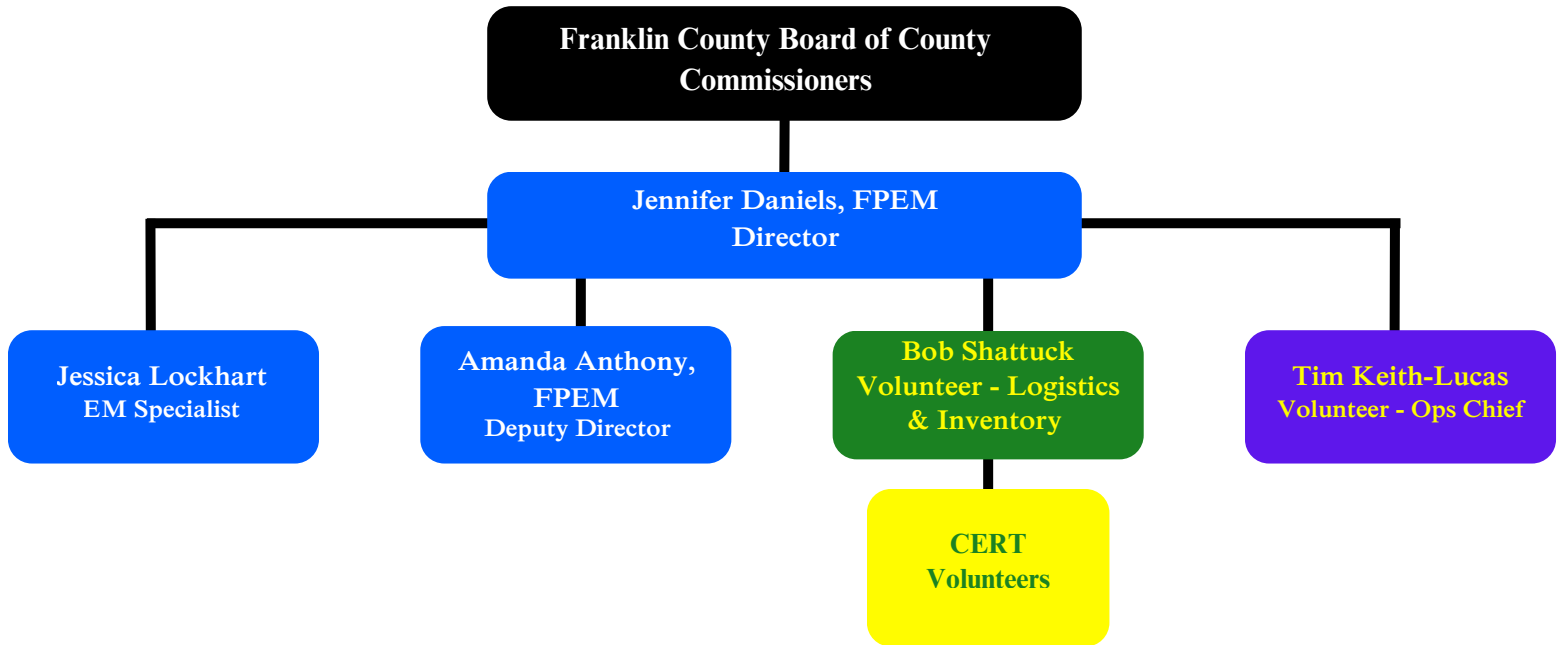
JESSICA LOCKHART EARNs HER AMATEUR RADIO HAM LICENSE

A ham radio tech license (Technician Class) is the entry-level amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the United States. It grants full access to all amateur radio frequencies above 30 MHz (VHF and UHF bands)—ideal for local communication through repeaters, handheld radios, and digital mesh networks—plus limited high-frequency (HF/shortwave) privileges.

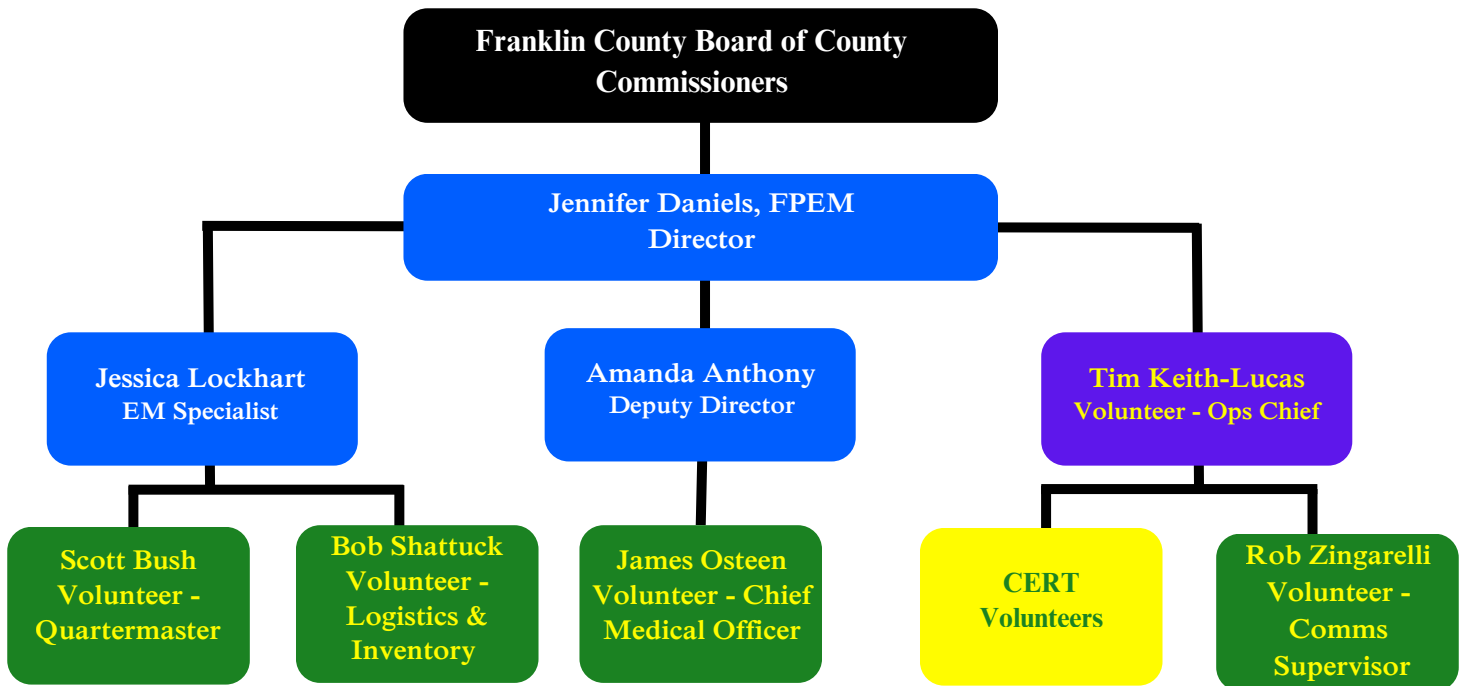


FCEM ORGANIZATION CHARTS

BLUE SKIES DEPARTMENTAL STRUCTURE



ACTIVATION DEPARTMENTAL STRUCTURE



ACTIVE VOLUNTEER STAFF



Bob Shattuck
CERT President & Logistics,
Inventory, Assistant Chef



Tim Keith-Lucas
Operations Chief



Merrie Johnson
CERT Vice President &
Staff Assistant

1712

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$59,714.56

TOTAL IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Monetary value of service to Franklin County @
\$34.88/Hour per Federal Rate

The national Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, overseen by FEMA, operates under the core motto: "Do the greatest good for the greatest number."

Its overarching mission is to educate individuals on disaster preparedness, train them in basic response skills, and harness local volunteers to support professional first responders during emergencies. Our CERT Team holds positions during Blue Skies and Grey Skies. Each CERT member has been trained in their positions and manages their duties with the highest regard. You will see their titles under each of their names. These are the people who give thier time freely to ensure the safety of our community.



James Osteen
Chief Medical Officer



Judi Ring
ESF 15



Rob Zingarelli
Communications Supervisor



Myrtis Wynn
CERT Treasurer & Deputy
Communication Supervisor



Scott Hausmann
CERT Secretary &
Gatekeeper



Scott Bush
Quartermaster

ACTIVE VOLUNTEER STAFF



Connor Beau Millender
Junior CERT



Pam Daniels
Operations Specialist



Tony Johnson
Chillas Hall Radio Branch
Leader



Laura Sienkiewicz
Sous Chef



Bob Richardson
Operations Specialist



Melissa Richardson
Operations Specialist



Mike Stratton
Operations Specialist



Robin Gibson
Gatekeeper & Vehicle
Maintenance



Bobbi Tricket
Chef



Kathleen Binder
Deputy Operations Chief



James Grater
Off-Site Liaison



Sandy Hengle
Operations Specialist

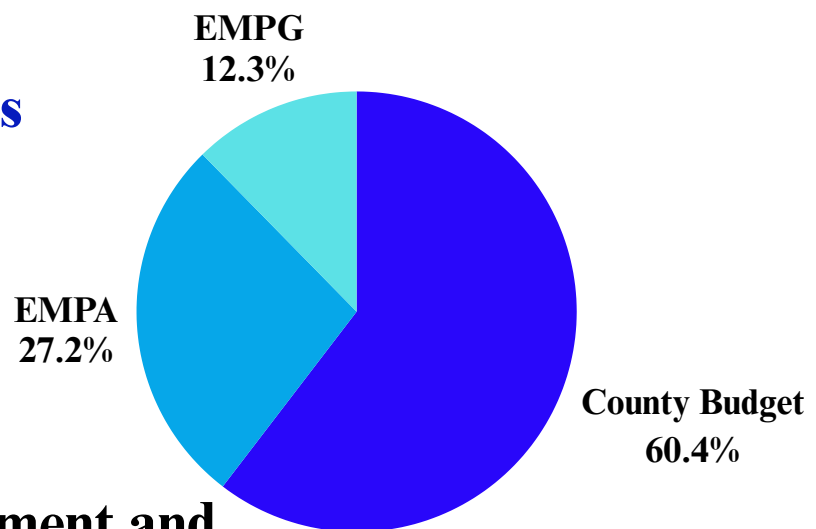
DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET

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 \$47,947.11.**
- Franklin County's portion of the Emergency Management budget was **\$234,543.**

The department's operating budget for FY 2025-2026 was \$388,296.11.

Throughout this report, you will see how these funds have been used to strengthen our capabilities, improve our equipment and programs, and better prepare Franklin County for future disasters.



OPERATIONS 2025-2026 ACTIVATIONS

4 EOC ACTIVATIONS

- Apalachicola Water Crisis June 2025
- Landfill Fire November 2025
- Leonard's Landing Missing Person January 2026
- Chapman Road Oil Spill February 2026



Apalachicola Water Crisis June 2025 | Level 2 Activation

Following Hurricane Helene, damage to water cleaning equipment in Apalachicola went unresolved for months, leading to high sulfur levels and deteriorating water quality. Efforts to mitigate this by flushing the system caused the water to turn black or yellow.

In June, a local state of emergency was declared, and FCEM was brought in to assist the City of Apalachicola. FCEM provided logistical support for this operation, collaborating with the state to procure potable water, shower trailers, laundry trailers, and additional resources to aid the citizens of Apalachicola.



Leonard's Landing Missing Person January 7-9, 2026 | Level 2 Activation

Several years after the previous extensive search for a missing individual, Franklin County Emergency Management, along with its volunteer group, the Community Emergency Response Team (FCERT), was requested by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to help locate a missing adult male in the Leonard's Landing area, situated north of Highway 98 and primarily within Ball State Park. FCEM personnel activated CERT and transported the Mobile Command Trailer (MCT) along with its support trailer to the eastern part of the county. Using the MCT as their operational hub, FCEM, FCERT teams, and various agencies conducted searches late on January 7, throughout January 8, and into January 9, ultimately leading to the tragic discovery that the missing person had passed away. FCEM was the last agency to leave the scene, resuming normal operations on the afternoon of January 9, 2026.



OPERATIONS 2025-2026 ACTIVATIONS

4 EOC ACTIVATIONS

- Apalachicola Water Crisis June 2025
- Landfill Fire November 2025
- Leonard's Landing Missing Person January 2026
- Chapman Road Oil Spill February 2026



Landfill Fire November 23, 2025 | Level 2 Activation

At around 2:00 PM, a major fire broke out at the landfill in Eastpoint, prompting a response from several fire departments and the Florida Forest Service. By 3:30 PM, the Emergency Management team was activated to provide logistical support to the responders on the scene. They set up a rest and recovery station at a safe distance from the fire, allowing responders to hydrate and cool down while Emergency Medical Services were present to offer immediate medical assistance if needed. By 10:00 PM, the fire was successfully contained.



Chapman Road Oil Spill February 26, 2026 | Level 2 Activation

An oil spill occurred from an old tank on Chapman Road in Apalachicola, reported by Fonda Davis. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff coordinated with stakeholders to address the spill, focusing on containment and removal efforts to protect the environment and local fisheries. The cleanup involved collaboration among the responsible party and various responders, who implemented containment measures and assessed environmental impacts. Final reviews with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Health (DOH) are underway to conclude the event.



EOC FEMA PA CONTRACTOR



Summit Group Consulting, LLC

Jeanne E. Devlin
CEO

Jeanne Devlin brings over 30 years of experience in Emergency Management and the Public Sector, serving both as a government employee and a private contractor. Renowned for her expertise, Jeanne is recognized as one of the leading FEMA grant managers in the nation. She has collaborated directly with FEMA Headquarters and state emergency management offices in Florida, Texas, Louisiana, New Jersey, and Kentucky. Her profound understanding of the Public Assistance program covers every aspect, ensuring that there is no Public Assistance issue that Jeanne and SGC cannot tackle.

Jeanne's background encompasses project management, development, and auditing. She has crafted Hazard Mitigation Grant Program proposals under Sections 404 and 406, as well as conducted research to aid in appeal developments. Her responsibilities have included analyzing and evaluating selected project applications, supporting documentation, and federal agency inspection reports to ensure accuracy and compliance with relevant FEMA policies and procedures. Additionally, Jeanne has successfully coordinated FEMA compliance audits and closeout procedures to finalize large federally funded applicant projects and state-level event grants. In various states, she has collaborated closely with DHS-OIG auditors to assess and produce grant status and recommendation reports. Jeanne is also skilled in conducting cost-benefit analyses and reconciling financial grants and subgrants. With her extensive experience across multiple states, SGC is well-equipped to offer exceptional insight and support to organizations nationwide.

\$822,837.05

Total Federal Share including
Pending

\$73,395.37

Total State Share including
Pending

\$896,232.42

Total Costs including Pending

Hurricane Helene

DR-4828-FL

September 23, 2024 | Cat 4

Total Costs: \$636,405.49

Federal Share: \$587,498.37

State Share: \$48,907.12

SB4-A: Not open yet but will be req.

Hurricane Idalia

DR-4734-FL

August 30, 2023 | Cat 3

Total Costs: \$159,142.03

Federal Share: \$125,410.21

State Share: \$16,865.92

SB4-A requested: \$16,865.90

Hurricane Debby

DR-4806-FL

August 1, 2024 | Cat 1

Total Costs: \$59,824.90

Federal Share: \$52,202.57

State Share: \$7,622.33

SB4-A: Not open yet but will be req.

Hurricane Michael

DR-4399-FL

October 11, 2018 | Cat 5

Total Costs: \$40,860.00

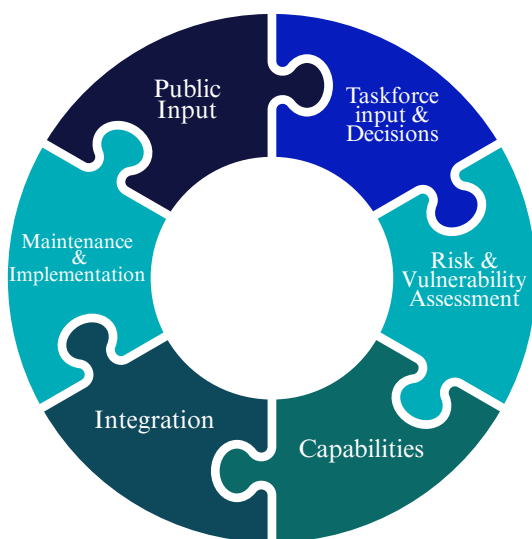
Federal Share: \$40,860.00

State Share: \$0.00

PROGRAMS

DUTY OFFICER PROGRAM

FCEM staff members engage in a two-week rotation to address inquiries from residents, visitors, and partner agencies, while also providing after-hours emergency response as necessary. This is a 24/7 on-call rotation. Our commitment guarantees that help is always at hand, promoting a safe and supportive atmosphere for everyone. Each staff member contributes unique expertise and a strong dedication to service, making them an essential resource. Whether answering a routine question or responding promptly to an emergency, our team demonstrates both professionalism and compassion.



LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY

Franklin County, Florida, faces various natural, technological, and societal or human-induced hazards. These threats compromise the health and safety of the county's residents, undermine its economic strength, and endanger the quality of the environment. Recognizing the critical need to reduce vulnerability to these risks, public and private sector stakeholders from Apalachicola, Carrabelle, and Franklin County have collaborated to establish a task force. This initiative led to the development and publication of the “Franklin County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS).”

FCEM organizes quarterly LMS meetings that are accessible to the public. These sessions provide an opportunity for LMS task force members and community residents to review current projects, receive updates, and propose new initiatives aimed at bolstering our county's resilience during disasters. The LMS plan for Franklin County was revised in 2026 and comprises 68 projects designed to enhance resilience. From 2025 to 2026, 7 projects from this list were successfully funded and completed.

68
Projects

7
Completed

HEALTHCARE COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (CEMP) REVIEW PROGRAM

State law mandates that the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) create and implement minimum criteria for Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMPs) and strategies for emergency power generation. Additionally, these CEMPs and emergency power plans must be reviewed and approved by Franklin County Emergency Management (FCEM) to ensure compliance. This includes facilities such as Weems Memorial Hospital and Arabella Rehabilitation. FCEM collaborates closely with these institutions to guarantee that all emergency management plans adhere to established standards and undergo thorough evaluations for effectiveness.

This partnership ensures that during emergencies—like severe weather or power outages—these critical facilities can sustain operations and deliver essential services without disruption. Such a proactive strategy not only protects the well-being of patients and staff but also strengthens the community's confidence in their local healthcare providers.



PROGRAMS

SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY

House Bill 7121, enacted during the 2006 State Legislature, defines Special needs as individuals requiring assistance during evacuations and sheltering due to physical, mental, cognitive impairments, or sensory disabilities. The bill requires each local emergency management agency to maintain a registry of persons with Special needs within its jurisdiction. Franklin County Emergency Management collaborates with the Florida Department of Health to manage the Franklin County Special Needs Registry. This program allows individuals who are medically stable but need assistance with basic tasks or rely on electronic medical devices to pre-register for a Special needs shelter. Participation is voluntary, offering an option for those without alternative evacuation plans.



Special needs shelters are designed to accommodate individuals requiring assistance beyond that provided by general population shelters. These shelters can be activated during emergencies to ensure the care of those who cannot safely remain at home. Their primary goal is to create an environment that addresses and supports an individual's health needs under emergency conditions.

20
**Special
Needs
Registrants**

7
**Evacuation
Assistance
Registrants**

We have established contracts with Franklin County Schools and Big Bend Transit for the transportation of residents outside the county in the event of a disaster.



EVACUATION TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

FCEM offers a program designed for residents without transportation during an evacuation. This initiative provides the option to be taken to a shelter outside the county until it is safe to return.

- **Free Service:** This assistance is available at no cost to residents.
- **Optional Participation:** Utilizing this service is optional; simply pre-register to take advantage of it.
- **Eligibility:** If you're a Franklin County resident lacking transportation, you can register for assistance in the event of a storm.

In the case of a hurricane that necessitates a mandatory evacuation, FCEM will ensure that residents have transportation to a designated shelter.



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)



**All data is for 10/01/25 through 09/30/26.*

15
**VOLUNTEERED
EVENTS**

23
**VOLUNTEER
CERT MEMBERS**

1712
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$59,714.56
**IN-KIND
CONTRIBUTIONS**
Monetary value of service to
Franklin County
\$34.88/Hour per Federal Rate

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a grassroots organization comprised of residents trained to take safe emergency response actions until professional responders arrive. The program emphasizes essential skills for EOC Support including disaster preparedness, basic first aid, light search and rescue, incident command structure, and more.

Franklin County CERT plays a vital role in our community, actively participating in numerous outreach events, offering services to non-profit organizations, and primarily supporting the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during both calm and crisis situations. Their assistance ensures the EOC is fully staffed and operates effectively.

Our CERT team is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, overseen by Franklin County Emergency Management while maintaining its own internal governing body. The current board members of CERT are:

- Bob Shattuck, President
- Merrie Johnson, Vice President
- Myrtis Wynn, Treasurer
- Scott Hausmann, Secretary
- Jennifer Daniels, Officer

*Volunteers are not paid, not
because they are worthless, but
because they are priceless*

~ Sherry Anderson

Together, they lead a dedicated group of volunteers who are committed to enhancing the safety and resilience of our community. The board works closely with FCEM to ensure that training programs are up-to-date and that volunteers are ready to respond to emergencies at a moment's notice.

CERT volunteers are not only crucial during times of disaster but also serve as educators and advocates for emergency preparedness in Franklin County. They conduct outreach and training sessions for residents, emphasizing the importance of being equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to handle emergencies effectively. Through these initiatives, CERT fosters a culture of preparedness and mutual support within the community.

In addition to their emergency response efforts, CERT volunteers participate in community events, providing first aid stations, assisting with traffic control, and helping to ensure the safety of all attendees. Their presence is a testament to the spirit of volunteerism and civic duty that is at the heart of Franklin County.

For those interested in joining the Franklin County CERT, training sessions are held periodically, and new members are always welcome. By becoming a part of this invaluable team, individuals can make a meaningful impact in their community while gaining valuable skills and experiences.

CERT VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



EOC MOBILE COMMAND

In September 2024, FCEM acquired a 35' travel trailer from Gulf County Emergency Management. We have transformed it into a Mobile Command Trailer, designed to serve as a replacement for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the event of destruction or evacuation, as well as a mobile command center during operations like a search for a missing person in Tate's Hell Forest.

Trailer Features

The conversion accommodates a team of six personnel, including:

- Director
- Deputy Director
- EM Specialist
- Operations Chief
- Inventory Spec/Chief Med Officer
- Lead Radio Operator

Each team member has designated desk space and a sleeping area. The trailer is furnished with:

- A meeting table
- A projection screen
- LED status monitors
- A printer
- A radio station
- Bunks
- Outdoor TV for Mappings, Messaging, Etc.

To enhance communication, Starlink and radio antennas are installed on the exterior. With its own kitchen, bathroom, water, and power supply, the trailer is capable of functioning as an EOC in a compact space and is completely self sufficient.

Additional Functions

The Mobile Command Trailer is also designed to support two additional roles as part of our mutual aid to neighboring counties:

1. It can be loaned to another county as their mobile command site if their EOC is compromised.
2. It is intended to be paired with the clinic trailer owned by Franklin County EMS, creating a self-sufficient ambulance and clinic setup for a team of four EMS workers. Together, these trailers can be deployed to a disaster-stricken area and quickly established as the primary medical resource.



Used in **4** Deployments:

- Leonard's Landing Search
- FSU Marine Lab Exercise
- Pre-Hurricane Season Festival
- Communications Exercise



COMMUNICATION

STARLINK

In the evolving world of Emergency Management, our mission is all about staying prepared and building robust systems. Internet access and connectivity are indispensable assets during a disaster, inspiring us to enhance the networks that support our Emergency Operations Center (EOC). By incorporating Starlink internet, we now have four layers of redundancy: Consolidated Communications, MediaCom, Verizon, Ham Radio, and the Starlink Satellite Terminals. When Hurricane Michael hit Franklin County, we faced a complete blackout in land-based communications, but the Florida National Guard came to the rescue, restoring our internet connectivity. Fast forward a few years, and FCEM has successfully deployed 12 Starlink satellite internet systems, perfectly placed like chess pieces across the county:



1

Carrabelle
Courthouse
Annex

1

Road
Department

1

Mobile
Command

2

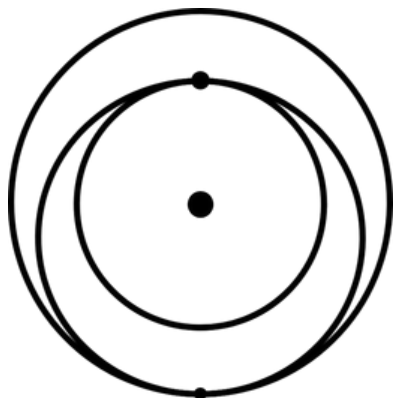
Emergency
Operations
Center

12

Total Starlinks
paid by EOC

7

Fire
Departments
(One at Each
Station)



With this stellar setup, internet access will stand strong throughout the county, even if another storm like Hurricane Michael comes knocking. The Road Department and Code Department in Eastpoint, the Courthouse Annex in Carrabelle, and Apalachicola Airport & EMS Stations across the county can maintain crucial post-storm operations along with communicating with the EOC and the state. Unless we're dealing with a nationwide calamity, Starlink will ensure internet access as long as a generator can keep the lights on.

STARLINK

COMMUNICATION

CONSOLIDATED, MEDIACOM, VERIZON

When disaster strikes, effective communication is crucial for recovery! FCEM has crafted a comprehensive plan, complete with a backup plan and an extra backup for good measure. Our internet lifeguard is Consolidated Communications, with Mediacom ready to jump in, and Verizon standing by to swoop in via cellular towers if needed. Should all else fail, we can count on the cosmic prowess of Starlink and the trusty Ham Radio.



AMATEUR RADIO OPERATIONS

Voice communications are the unsung heroes in the chaos following a disaster. To tackle any potential hiccups with telephone services, FCEM has rolled out a series of backup plans that would make even the most cautious prepper proud.

- By teaming up with the ever-enthusiastic Amateur Radio Operators, they've set up a VHF repeater system at the Carrabelle water tower, ensuring countywide coverage that's as solid as a rock.
- They've also linked up with the statewide SARNET-FL UHF repeater system, so you're never out of reach.
- And just in case all else fails, they've got HF ionospheric world-wide communication on standby, ready to swoop in and save the day.

Each week, these systems get a workout from dedicated volunteer operators to ensure they're ready to perform flawlessly when needed. For more information, hop on over to Tate's Hell Amateur Radio Club.



FCEM RADIO OPERATORS HOSTED BY ROB ZINGARELLI

ENHANCING COMMUNICATION RESILIENCE

During Hurricane Michael in October 2018, FCEM faced a loss of telephone and internet connectivity, leading to a commitment to prevent such occurrences in the future. Since 2023, FCEM has implemented multiple layers of communication protection, including training amateur radio operators in the county. They have established a radio repeater on a Carrabelle water tower, with base stations in Lanark Village, the EOC in Apalachicola, and the mobile Command Trailer. Additional radios are placed in FCEM and private vehicles. These operators act as



the EOC's eyes and ears during disasters, reporting conditions and issues. Rob Zingarelli, FCEM's Volunteer Communications Supervisor, conducted classes and review sessions for license tests, resulting in a growing number of licensed Amateur Radio Operators in the area.

In FY26, Amateur Radio volunteers have embarked on several significant projects. They provided communication support for a search and recovery mission in Bald Point State Park in January. To bridge the gap between handheld and vehicle radios, volunteers designed a backpack VHF radio system, inspired by military designs and utilizing commercial off-the-shelf products, delivering comparable performance at a fraction of the cost. In February, volunteers dedicated numerous hours to repair the Carrabelle repeater after a severe lightning strike. Additionally, four new Amateur Radio Operators are preparing for their licensing tests this summer.

Mark Richards – Extra – K1MGY

Lee Stoker – Extra – KE4COL

Rob Zingarelli – Extra – W4ZNG

Amada Anthony – General – KQ4JZF

Jennifer Daniels – General – KQ4JXO

Tim Keith-Lucas – General – K4TKL

Myrtis Wynn – General – KQ4LIM

George Young – General – KE4VPD

Patricia Bludworth – Technician – KQ4LIL

Scott Bush – Technician – KQ4JXP

Jessica Lockhart – Technician – KR4CHA

Jim Newton – Technician – KQ4NSD

John Relyea – Technician – KQ4JXR

Bob Richardson – In Progress

Melissa Richardson – In Progress

James Osteen – In Progress

Bob Shattuck – In Progress

Mike Stratton – In Progress

Sandy Hengle – In Progress

James Grater – In Progress



7

**In
Progress**

5

**Technician
Licenses**

5

**General
Licenses**

3

**Extra
Licenses**

NOTIFICATION & INFORMATION METHODS



ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Alert Franklin is a comprehensive mass notification system that enables Franklin County Emergency Management and the National Weather Service to deliver alerts and warnings directly to your phone, email, or both.

The cornerstone of our connection with the community is our alert and notification system. We utilize a multi-faceted approach that includes the Everbridge/AlertFranklin system, social media platforms, the FCEM website, and press releases.

Since the launch of this program, we have experienced a consistent annual increase in user groups, notifications, and contacts. The Alert Franklin System serves as an invaluable tool for FCEM to keep both residents and visitors informed in Franklin County.



20,217

**TOTAL ALERT FRANKLIN
CONTACT PATHS**

1139

**TOTAL
NOTIFICATIONS
10/2025 - 05/2026**

FCEM actively manages two key social media platforms—Facebook and (X)Twitter—to inform and engage the community during both favorable and unfavorable conditions. Facebook has experienced a growth in followers, and this year, we will focus on enhancing our outreach and communication strategies.

FCEM has successfully linked its website with Alert Franklin, along with Facebook and (X)Twitter. When a message is posted to one platform, it automatically shares across all channels, ensuring consistent messaging.

This integration facilitates real-time updates and maximizes our reach, allowing us to effectively connect with our audience. By leveraging these platforms, we ensure that critical information is disseminated swiftly, enhancing community safety and awareness. Our ongoing commitment is to adapt and evolve with emerging technologies, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of emergency communication. As we continue to expand our digital presence, we invite community feedback to further refine our approaches and better serve the residents of Franklin County.



New
(X)TWITTER
@FranklinEM3236



11,700

**FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS**
@FranklinEOC

NOTIFICATION & INFORMATION METHODS

FCEM WEBSITE

FCEM oversees and manages our website www.franklinemergencymanagement.com. there, you can find a wealth of information, including:

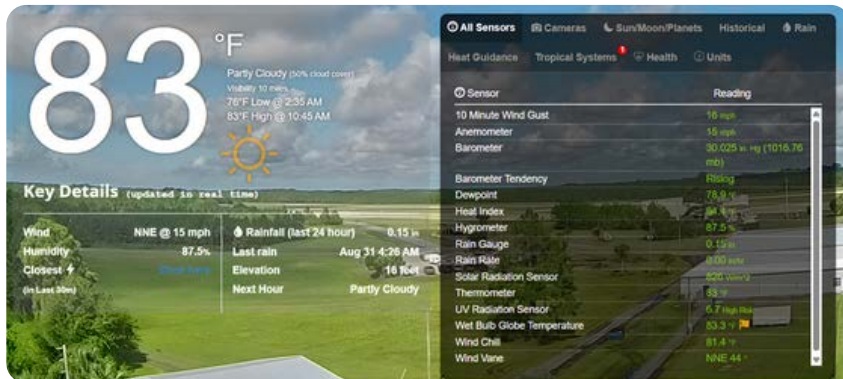
- Alerts & Advisories
- Our Programs
- Public Notices
- Request for Proposals
- Assistance on Building Your Own Emergency Plan (don't forget about your pet plan!)
- A link to sign up for **Alert Franklin** and connect with our **Social Media Accounts**

The FCEM website is regularly updated to provide the latest information. Additionally, there is a **Useful Links** tab that directs you to our partner websites. Remember, we are a “Whole Community.”

WEATHERSTEM

CEO Edward Mansouri developed the WeatherSTEM platform to enrich the K-12 STEM curriculum by integrating live data gathered from weather instruments, cloud cameras, agricultural probes, and various sensors. This innovative platform is now utilized to display real-time weather conditions from around the globe.

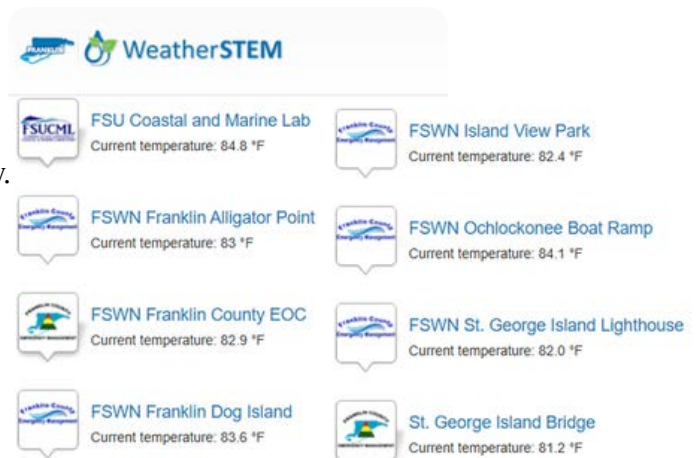
Thanks to the efforts of WeatherSTEM, along with Mansouri, Luke Hunnewell (VP of Infrastructure), and their dedicated staff, Franklin County is now equipped with numerous real-time weather recording stations and cameras. These resources are accessible to everyone via the FCEM website or by visiting franklin.weatherstem.com. One set of stations monitors the mainland's perimeter, while another keeps an eye on the barrier islands. We intend to expand the network of WeatherSTEM stations to strategically chosen locations across Franklin County.



IPAWS, which stands for Integrated Public Alert & Warning System, is a national initiative overseen by FEMA. This system enables authorized public safety officials to disseminate emergency alerts and warnings to the public via various communication channels, including:

- **Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)** on mobile devices
- **Emergency Alert System (EAS)** on radio and television
- **NOAA Weather Radio**

These channels ensure that critical information reaches the public promptly and effectively.



CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

● **FEPA Annual Training and Conference**

● **FEPA Mid-Year**

● **FEPA Certification Commission**

● **EM Day at the Capitol**

● **Directors Meeting**
Region 2 Quarterly Meeting

● **Florida Training for Emergency Managers**

● **MOU Renewal Meetings**

Transportation, Damage Assessment, COOP, POD, Radio, VFD's, LVA, Weatherstem, Etc.

● **Contractors & Sub-Contractors Meeting**
Debris, Recovery, Etc.

● **Meeting with ESFs, 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
- Realtors/Vacation Rentals

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



CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

FEPA ANNUAL

FEPA brings together emergency management professionals, nonprofit organizations, health care leaders, private sector partners, public safety officials, government agencies, and first responders from across Florida and beyond to share ideas, strengthen partnerships, and advance preparedness initiatives.



FTEM

The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) partners with the Florida Disaster Foundation to host Florida's Training for Emergency Management (FTEM) Symposium. This week long training symposium is for statewide, nationwide, and even international partners to enhance their knowledge in leadership skills, emergency management skills, as well as network with other industry professionals.

The FTEM Symposium allows practitioners, leadership professionals, and partners to deliver targeted training aligned with Florida's all-hazards mission.



EM DAY AT THE CAPITOL

EM Day allows emergency management professionals from across Florida to network, engage with their legislators, expand their knowledge, and collaborate to build more resilient communities statewide.



EM DIRECTORS MEETING

The Annual County Emergency Management Directors meeting serves as a platform to discuss how we can enhance collaboration among local, state, and federal partners, ultimately making our programs more effective for those we serve. Emergency management is not only about responding to gray skies; it is nurtured daily through relationships, open dialogues, shared experiences, and a commitment to continuously discover improved ways to work together.



TRAINING

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 training events that FCEM staff has hosted or attended from 2025-2026.



CERT
09/2025

21 TRAINING & CLASSES 10/1/25-9/30/26



HAM Radio Review
07/2026



School CPR/First Aid
08/2026



School CPR/First Aid
08/2026



School CPR/First Aid
08/2026



CPR/First Aid
03/2026



CERT
07/2026

EXERCISES

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. They often involve collaboration among multiple agencies and stakeholders, simulating real-life conditions to ensure preparedness. These exercises may vary in complexity, ranging from simple tabletop discussions to full-scale drills with participants. By engaging in such exercises, organizations can refine their response plans, enhance staff readiness, and ultimately bolster community resilience in the face of potential emergencies.



Statewide Hurricane
Exercise 2026
Participated with
Gulf County EM at
the Franklin County
EOC.



FSU Marine Lab Shark Bite Exercise 2025



Walton County Atlas Falls Exercise 2026

PLANS & INFRASTRUCTURE

DIAMOND MAPS:

Diamond Maps is a cloud-based GIS (Geographic Information System) software application designed for small municipalities and water or sewer utilities to map and track their local infrastructure. We partnered with the following agencies and now have access to all their maps showing infrastructure:

- Alligator Point Water and Sewer District
- City of Apalachicola
- City of Carrabelle
- Eastpoint Water and Sewer District
- SGI Water Management Services.



DUKE ENERGY:

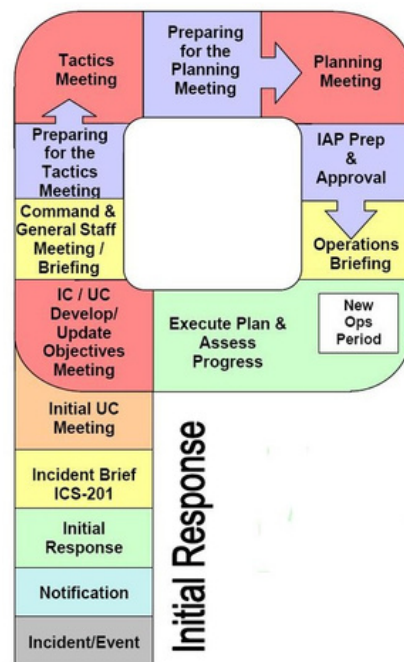
We also partnered with Duke Energy, and they have provided maps of transmission lines for all of Franklin County. Duke Energy has been a valued partner with FCEM for years. Their grant has assisted in funding our Build A Bucket program. This program helps residents prepare for emergencies by providing starter supplies. Through these collaborative efforts, we aim to enhance community resilience and ensure that both infrastructure and citizens are well-prepared for any challenges that may arise. By combining technological resources with community engagement, we continue to build a safer, more connected Franklin County.

These partnerships have enabled us to integrate comprehensive mapping solutions into our planning processes, ensuring that we have up-to-date information on critical infrastructure. This collaboration not only supports infrastructure management but also aids in emergency preparedness by providing detailed insights into our water, sewer, and electrical systems. As we continue to expand our network of partners, our goal is to foster a robust infrastructure framework that benefits the entire community.

PLANS & INFRASTRUCTURE

EMERGENCY PLANS

FCEM continues to work with our partners to update plans as deemed necessary. We are currently working with our municipalities, schools, and Apalach Airport to assist in updating Emergency Plans. Our focus is on tailoring these plans to address the unique needs and potential risks faced by each of these entities. By collaborating closely with local leaders and stakeholders, we ensure that each plan is comprehensive, actionable, and reflective of the latest best practices in emergency management. This proactive approach helps us anticipate potential challenges and implement effective strategies to mitigate risks.



Moreover, we are committed to conducting regular training exercises and drills to test the effectiveness of our emergency plans. These activities provide invaluable opportunities for all involved parties to practice their roles, identify areas for improvement, and build confidence in their ability to respond effectively during actual emergencies. By fostering a culture of preparedness and resilience, we aim to safeguard our community and ensure continuity of services, even in the face of adversity.

Through ongoing collaboration and innovation, FCEM remains dedicated to enhancing the safety and well-being of Franklin County's residents and infrastructure. Together, we are building a foundation of strength and preparedness that will serve our community for years to come.

PLANS & INFRASTRUCTURE

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

A standard operating procedure (SOP) is a formal, written set of step-by-step instructions that explains how to perform a specific task or routine process within an organization. In Emergency Management you are taught to always plan for the next step. These procedures are essential for ensuring consistency and efficiency, especially in high-stakes environments where clear guidance can prevent chaos and confusion. SOPs help to minimize miscommunication and errors, enabling personnel to respond effectively and confidently, regardless of the situation. By having detailed plans in place, organizations can better manage resources, coordinate efforts, and maintain control during emergencies, ultimately safeguarding both people and assets.

NEW SOPs in Place at Franklin County Emergency Management:

- Search & Rescue
- Radio Operations
- Mobilization, Setup & Demobilization of Mobile Command
- Mobilization, Setup & Demobilization of Support Trailer
- Mobilization, Setup & Demobilization of Event Trailer



We continue to update our plans, SOPs, Checklist, etc as needed. With each activation we learn something new and update our plans.

POINTS OF DISTRIBUTION

A point of distribution (POD) is a temporary, centralized site set up after a disaster or emergency to give out essential, life-sustaining supplies to the public. They provide basic necessities like bottled water, shelf-stable food, ice, and emergency tarps when local stores and regular supply lines are broken or closed.

FCEM is working with the City of Carrabelle and City of Apalachicola to establish a POD Plan for each city. We have already established and signed MOUs with each city and are in the process of holding POD Trainings for each municipality.

Amanda Anthony and Jessica Lockhart have both completed the POD Trainer course. They are designing training that is customized to each city.

Pre-Established POD Locations for Franklin County are:

- City of Carrabelle - (Old CHS School) 1001 Gray Ave
- City of Apalachicola - (Old AHS School) 192 Coach Wagoner Blvd
- Eastpoint - (Vrooman Park) 30 Sixth Street

3 PRE- ESTABLISHED PODS

Both Municipalities are responsible for their POD in their city and the County is responsible for all others. FCEM will assist each city after a disaster in ordering POD supplies from the State as needed.



EQUIPMENT

MAINTAINED EQUIPMENT:

RESPONSE VEHICLES

- 2019 Ford F250
- 2016 Ford Expedition



TRAILERS

- 7 Enclosed Trailers
 - Mobile Command Support Trailer (Michael)
 - Event/Outreach Trailer (Fred)
 - Chainsaw Response Trailer (Hermine)
 - Mini Trailer for Supply Transport (Idalia)
 - EVOC Cone Trailer (Helene)
 - Supply Trailer (Sally)
- Flat Bed/Utility Trailer for Supply Transport 12 ft (Kate)
- Mobile Command (Brunhilda)
- CERT Trailer (Debbie)
- Flatbed Equipment Hauler 18ft (Gary)

Purchased with a grant from the Gary Sinise Foundation



OTHER EQUIPMENT

- 4K Forklift
- 1 Large 1000 watt Prism Light
- 3 Small 250 watt Prism Light
- 22 hp Toro Riding Mower
- 2 Large Grey Fans
- 2 40 ft Shipping Containers
- 2 Hot Water Heaters
- Ice Machine
- Water Filtration System



GENERATORS

- 4 Generac 5K Gas Generators
- 2 Generac 5K Propane Generators
- 1 Generac 17.5K Gas Generator
- 1 1900 John Deere 4045T Generator (Runs EOC)



MESSAGE BOARD SIGNS

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

These signs were purchased approx 6 yrs ago.

We are now replacing batteries for an average of \$1000.00 per sign. Originally purchased with COVID 19 grant



EQUIPMENT

NEW/UPDATED EQUIPMENT:

LIGHTS

- 6 Lights Were Purchased to be Used on Scene. For Example, Eastpoint Landfill Fire. \$70 Each



“
*It wasn't raining when
Noah built the ark.*
”
~ Howard Ruff

TRAILERS

- Flatbed Equipment Hauler 18ft (Gary) Purchased with a grant from the Gary Sinise Foundation. \$4900.



GENERATORS & BACKUP POWER BANKS

- WEN DF1100X 11000-Watt Electric Start Portable Generator Dual Fuel. This is a backup for our Mobile Command. \$670
- 5 200W Portable Power Bank with AC Outlet, 146Wh Rechargeable Backup Lithium Battery \$70 each



OTHER EQUIPMENT

- Sylvox - 43" Patio Class Series 4K UHD Partial Sun IP55 Waterproof Smart Outdoor TV and Stand. To be used with Mobile Command, at Events, etc. to display maps and preparedness information. TV: \$850 Stand: \$100



NEW/UPDATED EQUIPMENT:

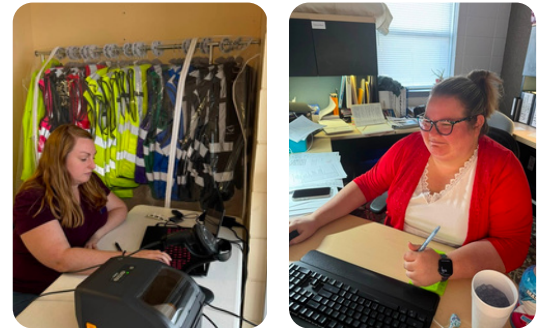
TRAINING

- Prestan CPR Manikin 4-Pack Adult, 4-Pack Infant & 4-Pack Child with Feedback and Monitor, 4 AED Ultra Trainers, MCR Accessories, anti-choking obstruction trainer vest (2), Storage Container on Wheels (50 Gallon) CPR Manikins: \$2500; Vests: \$153; Container: \$155 each
- CPR Face Shield Masks Pack 100 (2) \$50 each
- CPR Trainer Licenses. Allows EOC Staff/Volunteers to become CPR/First Aid/Stop the Bleed Instructors. We now have 5 Licensed Instructors. \$600
- 200 Traffic Cones & 40 Safety Reflective Retractable Barriers for Traffic Cones for EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operation Certification). This equipment will be stored in a trailer at the EOC for use by all VFDs, LEOs, and other County Departments, along with our Cities for Events or other needs. \$4500



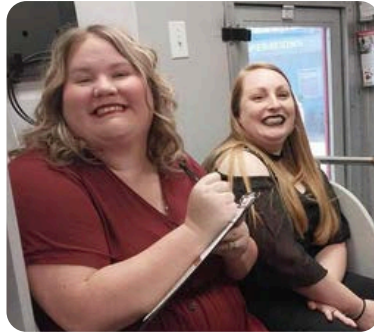
IDS & INVENTORY

- Franklin County Emergency Management uses Salamander Live for improved personnel credentialing and resource management. Key features include:
 - TRACK App: Provides real-time accountability and resource visualization during incidents.
 - Asset Management Module: Centralizes tracking of equipment and supplies.
 - Inventory App: Enables mobile management of inventory tasks.
 - Rapid Tag System: Quickly issues temporary badges for uncredentialed individuals during emergencies.
- Overall, Salamander Live enhances operational coordination and situational awareness in emergency responses, costing \$2,500 per year.
- Fargo DTC4250e Dual-Side ID Card Printer & Supplies Package with Card Imaging Software 52100. This printer will be used to continue to print IDs for County Staff, Volunteer Fire Departments, Elected Officials and Staff, City Staff, etc. \$2,800.



2025-2026 PARTNERSHIPS

ONE BLOOD: Halloween & Valentines Day Blood Drives



VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS: Meetings, Starlink Satellite Terminals, Generators, Equipment, IDs



FSU MARINE LAB: Exercise, Moulage, Events, Equipment



2025-2026 PARTNERSHIPS

FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

- EQUIPMENT: Donated a boat to FCSD
- TRAINING: FEMA courses, Forklift & Chainsaw Training



WALTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- MOUs: COOP Site
- TRAINING: FEMA courses (Instructors, Students)



LIBERTY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- MOUs: COOP Site



FRANKLIN COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER:

- MOU & Equipment for Damage Assessment: Who better to perform Damage Assessment after a disaster than the Property Appraiser. We furnish equipment needed for Damage Assessment



FRANKLIN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY:

- MOUs: Pet Microchip Readers with Fire Depts & County Property
- Equipment: Wanco Signs

FRANKLIN COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT:

- Equipment: Starlink that will allow the Road Department to operate their fueling system via internet after a disaster.

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE:

- Training: Chainsaw & Forklift OSHA Certification, FEMA Courses, Salamander, Crisis Track
- Equipment: Lights, WANCO signs, etc. (Eastpoint Landfill Fire)

CAPITAL AREA RED CROSS

- Training: Shelter Hero Training
- Working with our Faith Based Community

2025-2026 PARTNERSHIPS

FAITH-BASED INITIATIVES:

- Quarterly Meetings:
 - Organize sessions to coordinate response and recovery efforts for our residents, which include signing up for Alert Franklin, SPN, and Transportation Disadvantaged programs.
 - Regular updates and feedback sessions to adapt strategies based on experiences and emerging needs.
- Training:
 - Provide PTSD training to all County First Responders in collaboration with Rev. Al Stone.
 - Shelter Hero Training being offered via partnership with the American Red Cross.
 - Volunteers and Donations Class & Mass Care class offered in partnership with Volunteer Florida.
- Communication Enhancement:
 - Explore strategies to improve outreach to our Faith-Based Community, such as distributing flyers during services that contain contact information for EOC staff to assist with program applications through Emergency Management.
 - Collaboration to ensure consistent messaging and resources are available.
- Speaking Engagement:
 - EOC Staff discusses installing emergency kits and safety equipment along with making sure you have a plan in the event of a disaster.
 - Assist in developing a plan including safety measures.
 - Instruct on items needed to prepare an Emergency Kit (Build Your Bucket).



REALTORS & VACATION RENTAL COMPANIES

- Quarterly meetings:
 - Coordinate Response and Recovery for our visitors.
 - Training sessions for Realtors and rental managers on emergency preparedness and guest safety protocols.
 - Regular updates and feedback sessions to adapt strategies based on experiences and emerging needs.
- Website Update:
 - New page on our website for our visitors to find information quickly regarding a disaster.
- Information:
 - New flyers being given to each renter with a QR Code and info for our website.
 - Development of a "Welcome Package" for renters that includes essential safety tips and emergency contact information.
- Collaboration to ensure consistent messaging and resources are available for visitors.
- Encourage property owners to install emergency kits and safety equipment in rental properties.



PROGRESS & FUTURE GOALS

CONTINUED PARTNERING WITH FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Franklin County EOC holds a meeting every other month to support our VFDs. These meetings include discussions on working together to accomplish goals that will better improve our county in their response and recovery operations. Providing a platform for open dialogue allows fire department representatives to share their experiences, challenges, and innovative solutions. These meetings also serve as an opportunity to strengthen relationships and foster collaboration between the emergency management team and local fire departments. By aligning our efforts, we aim to enhance our preparedness, ensure a more coordinated response during emergencies, and facilitate efficient recovery processes. Through these ongoing partnerships, we're committed to creating a safer and more resilient community for all residents and visitors of Franklin County.

A few of the partnerships include:

- Installing Starlink Satellite Terminals and portable generators at all Volunteer Fire Departments. This will allow our Fire Departments to remain in contact with our Emergency Management Office, our First Responders, and our Law Enforcement.
- Purchasing 200 Cones for countywide use, including EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operations Course), Events, Law Enforcement, etc. We have also partnered with the County and with Apalachicola Airport to mark out a course.
- Purchasing small handheld radios for communications within fire departments. These are to be used until the new radio system is installed and operational. These radios were less than \$10 each and allowed intercommunication throughout our VFDs.



CRISIS TRACK SOFTWARE

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.

PROGRESS & FUTURE GOALS



IDS FOR EVERYONE

Franklin EOC Staff makes IDs for county staff, fire departments, elected officials, and anyone who will staff the EOC during an activation. This ensures that everyone is easily identifiable and secure. This initiative not only fosters a sense of community but also enhances safety measures by streamlining the identification process. This seamless integration demonstrates Franklin EOC's commitment to innovation and inclusivity, ensuring that resources are accessible to all.

TIMELINE CHECKLIST ADDED

In 2024, FCEM implemented an Activation Checklist that outlines tasks to be completed prior to the hurricane season. These tasks range from filling gas cans with fresh fuel to specific actions taken when a storm is first recognized as a threat and daily preparations as the storm approaches. The checklist is extensive and detailed, having already been updated with additional items based on our experiences.



CHARGING STATIONS AT THE EOC

We have installed charging stations at the EOC for phones, tablets, laptops, etc. These stations are designed to ensure that all essential devices remain operational during critical times, allowing staff and volunteers to stay connected and informed. By providing this infrastructure, we enhance our capacity to respond efficiently and support communication among team members. This step is part of our ongoing effort to create a resilient and prepared environment, where technology can be leveraged effectively to meet the challenges we face. Whether it's coordinating efforts or accessing real-time updates, these charging stations play a vital role in maintaining the flow of information and collaboration during activations.

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.



PROGRESS & FUTURE GOALS

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 EM SPECIALIST
PURPLE	OPERATIONS CHIEF
GREEN	LEAD VOLUNTEERS, QUARTERMASTER, SCRIBE AND RADIO SUPERVISOR
YELLOW	OUR WONDERFUL CERT VOLUNTEERS
RED	EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS (ESFs), 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

TRANSPARENCY

FCEM Staff make it a point to be as transparent as possible. We continue to update our website with information including our RFP (Bid Information), plans, etc. We believe that open communication builds trust and fosters community engagement. By regularly sharing updates and making resources easily accessible, we aim to keep our stakeholders informed and involved. Additionally, we invite community members to ask questions and provide feedback, ensuring that everyone's voice is heard and considered. This commitment to transparency not only helps us improve our operations but also strengthens our partnership with the public we serve.

PROGRESS & FUTURE GOALS

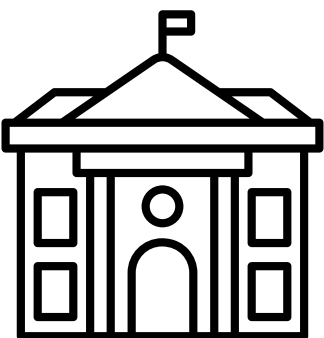
Three years ago (January 2023) Pamela Brownell, the long-time Director of FCEM, retired and was succeeded by Jennifer Daniels. Pam left a smoothly running and very professional organization to her replacement. She had also mentored Jenni to take over the office. With a smooth transition, Jenni was free 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 to build 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 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.

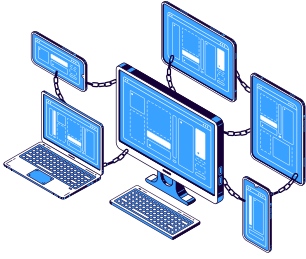


- **Vacation Rental Property Programs:** Hurricane season is during the prime of vacation season for Franklin County. What do rental agencies tell vacation renters about hurricanes? We plan to establish communication between agencies, renters, and the EOC to better prepare for when a storm approaches.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

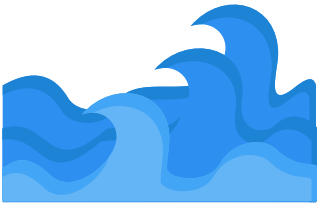


- **Town Hall Meetings:** FCEM wants to hear from our communities in Franklin County. We need to know how we can best support them both in preparation and in recovery from a disaster. Each community (Apalachicola, Eastpoint, St. George Island, Carrabelle, Lanark Village, Dog Island, and Alligator Point) 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.

PROGRESS & FUTURE GOALS



- **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.

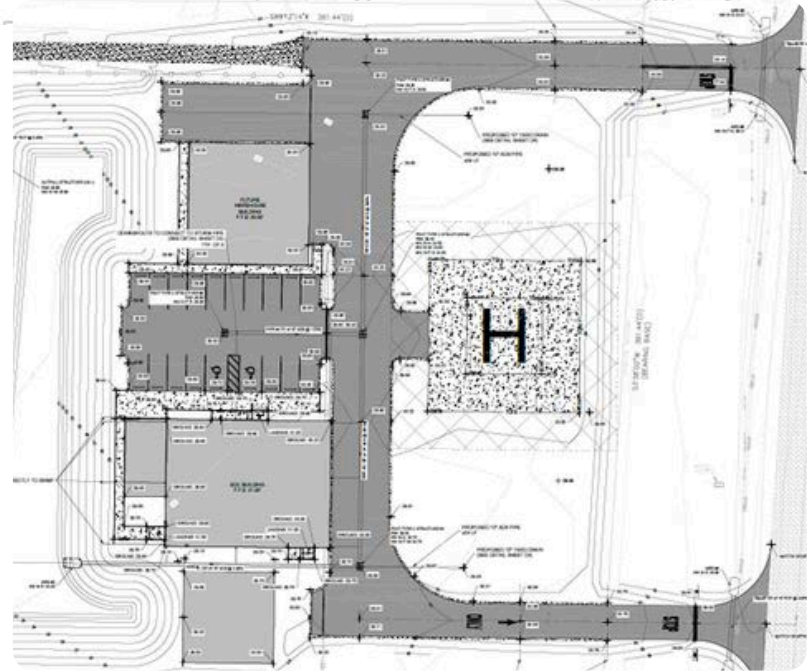
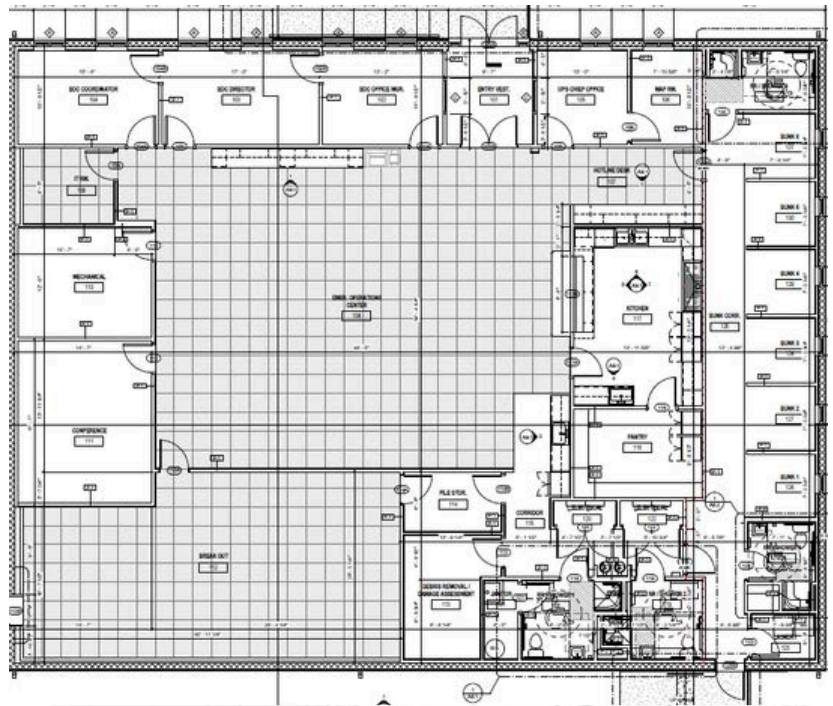
FCEM continues to look towards the future. As Franklin County continues to change, improve, grow, and become more resilient, so do our plans and programs.

NEW EOC (EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER)

FCEM has sought a new Emergency Operations Center since early 2013, and plans for one are finally underway. The design proposal for the new EOC has been released for bidding, and a contractor will be chosen in the upcoming fiscal year. This new facility is a crucial enhancement for the county and will be situated along Highway 65 in Eastpoint. It will include:

- A training room capable of accommodating up to 34 individuals
- An operations room
- A small conference room
- A bunkroom with space for 12 people
- Three main staff offices
- Four full bathrooms equipped with on-demand hot water
- A helicopter pad
- A pole barn
- A warehouse

The new EOC is designed with resilience and efficiency in mind, ensuring that the county is better prepared to handle emergencies and natural disasters. The central location along Highway 65 will provide strategic access for emergency personnel and resources, facilitating quicker response times and more effective coordination during critical incidents. Additionally, the inclusion of a helicopter pad signifies a forward-thinking approach to emergency logistics, allowing for rapid deployment and receipt of supplies, even in the most challenging conditions. The pole barn and warehouse will serve as essential hubs for equipment and resource storage, ensuring that everything needed for disaster response is readily accessible. This facility aims to enhance the overall readiness and capability of the county's emergency management operations, ultimately safeguarding the well-being of the community and providing a robust platform for comprehensive disaster management.



FUN AT THE EOC

End of Season Fajita Party



Birthdays



Christmas Party





Franklin County Emergency Management



*Failure is not an
option.*

~ Gene Kranz

