



# OEM CHRONICLE

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Boone County  
Office of Emergency Management

**#BeatTheHeat**



**Stay in the shade or indoors  
during extreme heat!**

**MAY**

## **EXTREME HEAT AWARENESS**

There is hot, then there is hot! Extreme heat ranks as the leading cause of death around the country among all weather related hazards.

With the kids home for the summer, now is the best time to get the whole family prepared for extreme heat!

# EXTREME HEAT AWARENESS

## What Is Extreme Heat?

Extreme heat is defined as a period of high heat and humidity, with temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit for 2 to 3 days.

As the body struggles to cool down in these conditions, it can lead to heat related illnesses, such as heat stroke and exhaustion (US Department of Health and Human Services). It can also exacerbate pre-existing conditions like asthma and COPD.

## How to Stay Safe When Extreme Heat Threatens Us

### Prepare

- Find places in your community where you can go to get cool.
- Try to keep your home cool by covering windows with shades and weather-stripping doors and windows
- Use window reflectors to reflect heat back outside.
- Install window air conditioners and insulate around them
- Never leave pets or people inside a vehicle on a hot day.



# EXTREME HEAT AWARENESS

## Stay Safe During

- Wear loose, lightweight, and light-colored clothing.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Do not use electric fans if the temperature is 95 degrees or more.
- If your outside, find shade. Or go to places into your area that provide air conditioning such as libraries, shopping malls, and community centers.
- Check on yourself, friends, and family for heat related illness.



## Recognize & Respond

Know the signs and ways to treat heat-related illness.

Heat Exhaustion	Heat Stroke
<p><b>ACT FAST</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move to a cooler area</li> <li>• Loosen clothing</li> <li>• Sip cool water</li> <li>• Seek medical help if symptoms don't improve</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACT FAST</b></p> <p><b>CALL 911</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move person to a cooler area</li> <li>• Loosen clothing and remove extra layers</li> <li>• Cool with water or ice</li> </ul>
<p><i>Dizziness</i></p> <p><i>Thirst</i></p> <p><i>Heavy Sweating</i></p> <p><i>Nausea</i></p> <p><i>Weakness</i></p>	<p><i>Confusion</i></p> <p><i>Dizziness</i></p> <p><i>Becomes Unconscious</i></p>
<p><i>Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke.</i></p>	<p><i>Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given.</i></p>
<p>Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed!</p>	

# BOONE COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

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Every month, we like to spotlight one of our local partners who work hard to make Boone County such a great place to live, work, and recreate in. This month we'd like to recognize Melody Whitworth!

**Please introduce yourself and your organization:**

I'm Melody Whitworth, Founding Director of Unchained Melodies Dog Rescue.

**What does your organization provide?**

Unchained Melodies is a not for profit dog rescue organization rescuing, and educating about the chained and penned back yard dog and all of the reasons why this form of confinement is inhumane. We also fight against animal abuse and neglect and push for stronger laws for our furry friends. We also have many programs to help our community pets such as our training programs, the pet food pantry and servicing the unhoused pets.

**What are some challenges you face?**

The greatest challenge is enforcement of ordinances and laws that protect animals from abuse and neglect and the greater challenge is conviction of those that perform these acts on the animals.

**How do you like to spend your time outside of work?**

Dinner with friends is a favorite. I enjoy live music and I'm attempting to learn how to play golf. That is a challenge in itself!



# **BOONE COUNTY SPOTLIGHT (CONT.)**

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## **What's one thing on your bucket list?**

I've always wanted to go up in a hot air balloon and visit the Grand Canyon. The advocate in me would like to see a State law banning chaining and/or penning a dog for it's entire life. In my opinion, it is one of the worse forms of abuse and neglect and needs to become illegal.

## **Thanks so much for the work you do – what else should our readers know about you and your organization?**

Unchained Melodies is always looking for people to get involved, especially signing on to foster a dog. As a foster based organization, we can only take in the dogs that we have room for which means many have to wait. Also, please spay and neuter your pets, there are far too many unwanted dogs and cats filling up the rescues and shelters and there is truly no need for any more unwanted litters.

*Thank  
you!*

# TRAINING & EXERCISE

Training and exercising plans that are in place helps build preparedness across the county. Exercises are conducted to ensure procedures and policies are up to date with the best practice. Furthermore they give our community stakeholders an opportunity practice and improve the plan that is in place.

Our office started off the month tracking participation in the Healthcare Coalition Communications Exercise. We then hosted a NARCAN train the trainer course. The office also participated in a FEMA Virtual Tabletop Exercise on IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert & Warning System).

We hosted the annual LEPC exercise this month as well, with great thanks to Ameren for allowing us to use their company for our scenario about a gas leak. Finally we finished out the month by conducting a Bomb Dog training exercise with 23 teams from all over the state of Missouri in conjunction with MU Athletics and the TSA.



Photo: In partnership with Ameren, Specialist Matt Brown facilitated the annual Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) with local community stakeholders.



Photo: OEM staff and county employees taking a NARCAN training class hosted by Ashland Police Department.



Photo: Bomb dog teams participating in an exercise at the University of Missouri.

# OUTREACH

Outreach is critical for building resilience within Boone County. Our goal is for every citizen to be prepared for hazards that can affect our community including flooding, tornadoes, and earthquakes!

This month we hosted multiple tours of the Emergency Communications Center with community members, including students from the county.

We also connected with the community at the 2024 Pet Health Fair, hosted by Unchained Melodies Dog Rescue, to emphasize the importance of including our furry friends in the disaster preparedness process.



Photo: Specialist Kraig Johnson and Specialist Chris Lewin staffing the OEM table at the Pet Health Fair.

# FAREWELL ISABELLE CHRISTIANSEN

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With the spring internship session coming to a close, the OEM team expresses a bitter-sweet goodbye to Isabelle.

Isabelle was pivotal in the development of the Disaster Recovery Plan as she coordinated meetings with all of the County's Recovery Support Functions groups.

She increased OEM's outreach capabilities by researching the hazards Boone County is most vulnerable too and creating a social media content plan to increase resilience and personal preparedness in our community.

Isabelle also advanced our inaugural HERRricane program by creating marketing materials, and drafting important documents.

Since she joined the team, Isabelle has completed her Master of Public Affairs program with an emphasis in local government management, and aims to advance her career as a public servant.

Thank you Isabelle for the work you have done. We wish you the best in your future endeavors!



Photo: Director Kelley and Emergency Management Intern Isabelle Christiansen speaking on the severe weather preparedness at the 2024 Columbia Area Earth Day Festival.



# STAFF UPDATE

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## **Chris Kelley, Director**

This month, Chris participated in two virtual discussion-based exercises, facilitated by FEMA, that covered the process of managing a mass casualty incident and the use of the county's public alert & warning system.

He also attended the Boone County Crisis Communications group meeting and the Boone County Stakeholder Recovery meeting.

## **Chris Lewin, Mitigation & Recovery Specialist**

Chris lead the Disaster Recovery Stakeholder meeting. He also attended the Crisis Communication group meeting and both of the virtual exercises facilitated by FEMA.

Chris also staffed the OEM table at the 2024 Pet Health Fair

## **Jake Waller, Deputy Director**

This month, Jake attended the Boone County Advisory Committee and the Boone County Recovery Stakeholder Meeting. He participated in the virtual exercise regarding the use of public alerts & warnings.

Jake also traveled to Will County, Illinois with Matt, and completed the All Hazards Operations Section Chief Course.

## **Matt Brown, Training & Exercise Specialist**

This month, Matt hosted the annual LEPC exercise and conducted a Bomb Dog exercise in conjunction with MU Athletics and TSA.

He also travelled to to an Active Assailant Exercise in Will County to gain insight on the best practices to integrate in our similar exercises and real world incidents. Matt also completed the EOC Planning Skillsets Course

## **Bart Messer, Administrative Assistant**

Bart worked on building active assailant kits with Della. He also answered phone calls to the ECC, updated our EOC computers, checked the OEM vehicles biweekly, and paid the bills.

## **Kraig Johnson, Planning & Preparedness Specialist**

This month, Kraig participated in both of the FEMA virtual exercises, attended the Crisis Communications and Recovery Stakeholder meetings, and connected with the community at the Pet Health Fair.

## **Della Luster, Administrative Coordinator**

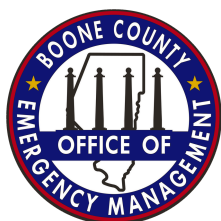
Della built active shooter kits with Bart and participated in the virtual exercise about a mass casualty incident & reunification. She also reconciled our purchasing cards and made sure that everyone in the office got paid!

# ENGAGE WITH OUR OFFICE

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The Boone County Office of Emergency Management OEM Chronicle contains preparedness information to help those who live, work, and visit Boone County become better prepared for emergencies.

If you have any suggestions about content to add to the Chronicle, please don't hesitate to reach out by emailing [EM@boonecountymo.org](mailto:EM@boonecountymo.org).



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