



# OEM CHRONICLE

Boone County  
Office of Emergency Management



## AUGUST FAMILY PREPAREDNESS

Is your family ready for the unexpected? Whether it's a natural disaster, a sudden emergency, or just the challenges of daily life, being prepared can make all the difference. In this edition, we'll help you take simple, effective steps to ensure your family's safety and peace of mind in any situation.

# FAMILY EMERGENCY PLANNING

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In today's unpredictable world, it's crucial to be prepared for any emergency that may come your way. Family disaster planning isn't just about having a kit or a list—it's about ensuring that your loved ones are safe, informed, and ready to respond together. A well-thought-out disaster plan can make all the difference when seconds count, providing peace of mind and a clear course of action during critical moments.

Here are some of the steps you can take to keep you and your family ready.



## Make a Family Communications Plan

Whether faced with a natural disaster, a power outage, or an unexpected crisis, having a plan in place can help keep your family connected when it matters most.

One important item to put into your plan is a point of contact for each family member to contact in the event you are separated. Its best to pick a person who lives out of town as they may be easier to contact in a disaster.

Another aspect to consider where you will meet if you are separated. Discuss locations that are in your neighborhood and outside of town so you can be prepared for any situation. Below is a template to get you started.

### Family Communications Plan Template:

<http://bcoem.info/476WcEm>



# FAMILY EMERGENCY PLANNING

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## Stay Informed

In an emergency, information is your best ally. Stay informed by signing up for local alerts, monitoring weather updates, and keeping an eye on news reports.

Knowing what's happening in real-time allows you to make quick, informed decisions to protect your family. Don't wait—stay informed and stay safe!

You can sign up for local notifications/alerts and create a safety profile through "Smart 911".

### Smart 911 Signup:

<http://bcoem.info/3Tg9UPx>



## Build a Kit

An emergency kit is more than just a collection of supplies; it's your family's first line of defense when disaster strikes.

So its best to include the essentials to sustain your family throughout the disaster. This includes 1 gallon of water and non-perishable food per person per day (for at least 3 days), prescription medicines, and a first aid kit.

Of course, a kit is not all about staying safe, it should also be there to keep you and your family clean, comfortable, and healthy afterwards. Consider including items like blankets, card games, books, and toys for your pets!

Below are some checklist for adults and kids too!

### Adult Checklist:

<http://bcoem.info/3X5NaCN>

### Kids Checklist:

<http://bcoem.info/4cOIIWK>

### References & Further Reading:

- [www.ready.gov/kit](http://www.ready.gov/kit)
- [www.ready.gov/kids/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/kids/make-a-plan)

# 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 an amazing place to live, work, and recreate in. This month we'd like to recognize Joe Knight!

### **Please introduce yourself and your organization:**

Joe Knight, Development Director at Coyote Hill Foster Care Ministries. For thirty-three years, Coyote Hill has existed to give children in foster care a safe place to be a child. We know safe children today make safe families tomorrow, so we work every day to end child abuse and neglect in this generation. During that time, Coyote Hill has seen tremendous growth as an organization.



Today, the Coyote Hill campus is located on over 300 acres of land with six large foster family homes, an equine arena allowing children to participate in therapeutic riding programs, and a beautiful outdoor space for children to explore and find healing. In addition to the programs at the main campus, in 2020 Coyote Hill launched the Foster Care Services Program in Columbia, Missouri.

### **What does your organization provide?**

Coyote Hill strives to give children safe homes. To do so we license, train and advocate for foster families. We have an equine therapy program and have been working through our Family Connections program to help with reunification of children with biological parents. This program focuses on recruiting, training, and supporting potential and new foster and adoptive parents around Missouri. The mission was to take its more than 30 years of experience caring for children in foster care in large-family homes on its property to the community. Throughout 2023, the Foster Care Services program served 210 families and 276 children in mid-Missouri. As part of this program Coyote Hill has also expanded geographically to include sites in Hannibal, Jefferson City, and Moberly.

# BOONE COUNTY

## SPOTLIGHT

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### **What are some challenges you face?**

In Missouri, the number of children in care outnumbers the total of licensed foster homes by an average of three to one (AFCARS, 2021). Instability and relocating have been shown to impact children's mental health, emotional well-being, and educational outcomes (Rubin et al., 2007). Since 2019, the overall number of foster parents in Missouri has decreased, while the number of children in care is steadily increasing (AFCARS, 2022). Coyote Hill's Foster Care Services Program focuses on making the foster care process as simple and sustainable for participants as possible.

Having the proper resources for foster parents from the very beginning allows for the best long-term results for children. Research indicates 30%–50% of foster families quit within their first year, citing lack of support, insufficient representation, and feeling helpless (NCSL, 2019). By providing appropriate resources to parents, Coyote Hill's foster parent retention rate was 88% in 2023. Coyote Hill's foster care services program consists of three branches; each branch is tailored to the specific needs of the foster parents. The branches include the following: 1) Training, 2) Licensing, and 3) Advocacy. Hannibal, Jefferson City, and Moberly.

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

I love to spend time with my family, watch Mizzou Basketball and Football. On the side my wife and I own Columbia Culinary tours where we get to show off local restaurants and history to those who go on food tours with us.

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

I have always wanted to go to Oregon but haven't made it that far west yet.

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

Coyote Hill loves to create new positive memories for children who need them most. A foster dad once told our staff we are replacing negative memories with positive ones and that sticks with me in everything we do!

# INCIDENT SUPPORT TRAILER EXERCISE

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This month the Boone County Office of Emergency Management exercised the Region F Incident Support Team (IST) trailer and equipment cache which our office maintains for the region. This exercise took place over two days – one day for setup of the Western Shelter and equipment, and another day for equipment breakdown and repack into the trailer that houses the cache. The Region F IST is one of three incident support teams in Missouri. Deputy Director Jake Waller sits on the steering board for the team and is co-chair of the logistics committee.

The IST cache contains all the tools and equipment needed to construct a temporary emergency operations center the support team could use during a disaster situation, all kept within a climate-controlled Western Shelter tent system powered by a portable generator. Some of the trailer contents include laptop computers, printers and copiers, a Ground Control satellite communications system, tables, chairs, sleeping bags, tents, a portable Honda generator, and all the office supplies a team of twelve would need to operate for the first 12 hours of a disaster. This is a critical asset, not only for our region but also for the entire state.



Photo: The shelter partially assembled

# INCIDENT SUPPORT TRAILER

## EXERCISE

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The goal of the exercise was to completely empty the trailer, setup the equipment and Western Shelter system as it would be used in an activation, perform an inventory of the entire cache, and then breakdown and restow all the equipment back into the trailer. Working inside of our support building, we were able to build the Western Shelter and use some of the equipment to simulate an operations center. While a few pieces of equipment and light bulbs were found to need replacement, we were able to successfully meet all our objectives and pack everything neatly back into the trailer.

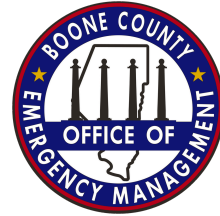
Our office would like to extend a thank you to all our staff and IST members that assisted with the exercise, as well as a special thanks to Missouri Task Force 1 for allowing logistics team members Tammy Rounsvall and Todd Johnson to provide much needed technical assistance with the sheltering system. We couldn't have done it without them!



Photo: The shelter fully assembled

# HERRICANE BOONE COUNTY

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We are thrilled to share the success of our inaugural youth camp, HERricane Boone County, for young women! This transformative program was designed to inspire, educate, and empower the next generation of female leaders in emergency management. Over the course of the camp, participants engaged in a wide range of activities, including hands-on exercises, Basic Life Safety & CPR certification, and mentorship sessions led by accomplished leaders in government.

HERricane provided a supportive environment where young women could explore their passions, develop new skills, and build lasting friendships. We are proud to have played a role in shaping the futures of these bright young minds, and we are already looking forward to next year's camp. Thank you to everyone who made this incredible experience possible!



Photo: A HERricane camper learning about our local fire departments during the public safety themed day.



Photo: Group photo of HERricane campers with their Certificates of attendance on graduation day.



# STAFF UPDATE

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## **Chris Kelley, Director**

This month, Chris assisted with the inaugural Boone County HERRricane camp, went to FEMA's Emergency Management Institute for training, and prepared the offices 2025 budget.

## **Della Luster, Administrative Coordinator**

Della built active shooter kits with Bart. She also reconciled our purchasing cards and made sure that everyone in the office got paid!

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

This month, Chris led the inaugural Boone County HERRricane camp, staffed an OEM booth at Family Fun Fest, took the ICS 400 course, and worked on the County's Disaster Recovery Plan.

## **Jake Waller, Deputy Director**

Jake taught a Stop the Bleed and Basic Life Support CPR for HERRricane campers, represented Boone County at the quarterly emergency management director Region F meeting, exercised the Region F Incident Support Team cache, and attended a cyber incidents for an EOC class.

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

This month, Matt facilitated a tabletop exercise for Columbia Regional Airport, co-taught an ICS 400 class, attended the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency conference, and took a FEMA class on voluntary agencies.

## **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, held our fort down, and paid the bills.

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

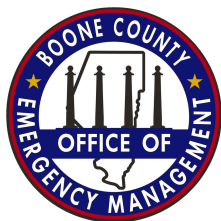
Kraig prepared the Incident Action Plan for the upcoming Ready festival and the Mizzou football games. He also attended a de-escalation training, the monthly convention and visitors bureau meeting, and assisted with the HERRricane camp.

# 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).



Come join almost 7,000 of your friends and neighbors and follow our socials. We are: [@BooneCountyOEM](https://www.instagram.com/BooneCountyOEM)



For weather information, monthly giveaways and preparedness tips please visit: [@boonecountyready](https://www.instagram.com/boonecountyready)

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Get weather, emergency, and special-event text and email alerts.

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Text BCALERT to 67283 to opt-in to receive emergency notifications.

**Preparedness Notifications:**

Text READY to 67283 to opt-in to non-emergency preparedness messaging.



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