



OEM CHRONICLE

Boone County
Office of Emergency Management



SEPTEMBER

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

September is National Preparedness Month, a timely reminder to ensure you and your family are ready for any emergency, big or small. Disasters—whether natural like earthquakes, floods, and wildfires, or unexpected events like power outages—can strike without warning.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Launched in 2004 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in response to 9/11, National Preparedness Month encourages individuals and families to take simple yet crucial steps to enhance their preparedness.

This year's theme is "Start a Conversation", which highlights the importance of discussing disasters proactively with loved ones. Talking about bad things that could happen like a disaster or emergency isn't always easy.



We may think we're protecting the people we love by avoiding these conversations, but they are important to start taking steps to get ready and stay safe.

By being proactive and making preparedness a priority, people can protect themselves, their loved ones, and their communities, ensuring they are ready to respond effectively when disaster strikes.

On the next two pages we've added some ways all of us can prepare for an emergency situation. How many of these can you check off your list?

- Learn a lifesaving skill
- Build an emergency kit
- Protect Important Documents
- Be informed
- Know your evacuation routes

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Learn a Lifesaving Skill

Learning a lifesaving skill is an essential part of being prepared for emergencies, as it empowers individuals to act quickly and effectively when every second counts.

These skills can make the difference between life and death while waiting for professional responders to arrive.

Examples include:

- CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), which can help restart a heart or keep blood flowing to vital organs during a cardiac emergency
- Basic first aid for treating wounds or burns
- AED (automated external defibrillator) use to restore a normal heart rhythm.

Gaining these skills boosts confidence and readiness, making individuals valuable assets in any crisis.

Build an Emergency 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/4cOIWK>

References & Further Reading:

- www.ready.gov/kit
- www.ready.gov/kids/make-a-plan

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Protect Important Documents

Keeping important documents safe and accessible during an emergency is vital for protecting your identity, finances, and ability to recover after the crisis.

Documents like identification cards, insurance policies, medical records, and property deeds are essential for accessing healthcare, filing insurance claims, and receiving aid. Storing these items in a waterproof, fireproof container or keeping digital copies in secure cloud storage ensures they remain intact and easily retrievable, even if your home is damaged.

By safeguarding these critical papers, you can reduce stress, expedite recovery, and maintain stability in the aftermath of a disaster.

Know Evacuation Routes

Knowing travel and evacuation routes during an emergency or disaster is crucial for ensuring a safe and swift escape from danger. In a crisis, roads may become congested or impassable, and having pre-planned routes can prevent confusion and delays.

Understanding alternative paths, including less-traveled roads or nearby shelters, increases your ability to act quickly, potentially saving lives. Familiarizing yourself with evacuation procedures not only helps protect you and your family but also reduces the strain on emergency services, allowing first responders to focus on those in the greatest need.

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>

BOONE COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

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 Travis Campbell!

Please introduce yourself and your organization:

My Name is Travis Campbell. I am the Program Director for Adventure and Innovation with Great Rivers Council, Scouting America. I am directly responsible for delivering the highest quality programs for scouting and community groups and overseeing council programs and events for scouts and community youth including residential camps, day camps, special event programs, advancement, and more.



What does your organization provide?

The Great Rivers Council is home of the only Sinsquefield Invention Campus at Lake of the Ozarks Scout Reservation, and the Scouting Adventure Center in Columbia, Missouri. Our Invention Campus provides access hi-tech equipment, computer lab, 3D printers, laser engravers, CNC routers, embroidery machines, Scan-n-Cut machines, welding, metalworking, skills and trades, and more.

While our Scouting Adventure Center boasts Veterans United Foundation Climbing Wall and The Sinsquefield Innovation Space. The Scouting Adventure Center is proud to be one of just two facilities in the Columbia area that will have access to a full-scale, indoor climbing wall. The wall is 26 ft high and approximately 40 ft wide. The highest point of the wall is Hillard's Peak! The wall will feature both automatic and traditional style belays.

BOONE COUNTY

SPOTLIGHT

What does your organization provide? (Continued)

The Sinquefield Innovation Space features 4 unique program areas, each with a different focus: Audio, Visual & Design, Engineering & Programming, Health & Safety, and Science & Nature. Throughout the year, Great Rivers Council runs various programs for youth from Drones, STEM programs, Coding and much more. We believe that with the right inspiration, motivation, and access, every person can be an innovator, creator, designer, and a maker of a better future.

What are some challenges you face?

The biggest challenge we face is getting people to know what we have to offer. Especially, programs that are open to anyone not just scouts. We believe everyone is a potential scout so we want everyone to have the opportunity to experience the things we can offer.

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

I come from a large family of 8. My wife, Danielle, and I spend all of our free time with our 6 children and their multitude of activities. Family time is the best time.

What's one thing on your bucket list?

I am not much of a bucket list kind of guy. Between my large family, scouts, and my time in the service I have done all the things I think I would include on my bucket list.

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

Great Rivers Council is a great program that gives back to the community in so many ways. We pride ourselves on changing lives, especially of the youth, knowing that we are making a positive impact on individuals, families, the local are, and society in general. I would love to have as many people volunteer for us to help us continue to make such a positive impact.

BOONE COUNTY READY FESTIVAL



The Boone County Ready Festival is our community's annual celebration of preparedness, bringing together residents and local organizations to promote disaster readiness and safety.

This free, family-friendly event allowed local emergency responders and preparedness organizations the hands-on demonstrations, educational exhibits, and opportunities to engage with experts.



Photo: Festival attendees got to tour many local emergency vehicles, including a Columbia Fire Department fire truck (Karl Bussen/Bussen Productions)



Photo (Karl Bussen/Bussen Productions)

From learning CPR and how to assemble a emergency kits to exploring the latest tools for disaster response, the festival gave attendees the knowledge and skills needed to stay safe during emergencies.

Additionally, we were proud to honor Como Mobile Aid Collective with the Tom S. Hurley Public Safety Service Award. This award is presented annually to recognize exceptional contributions to community preparedness and resilience in Boone County. Their commitment to providing for those most in need here in Boone County exemplifies the spirit of the Tom S. Hurley Award.

BOONE COUNTY READY FESTIVAL



We extend our heartfelt thanks to the 60+ vendors and partners who made the 2024 Boone County Ready Festival possible, including our Gold Level Sponsor Kelley Klean.

These organizations—ranging from emergency management agencies and healthcare providers to businesses and nonprofits—bring invaluable resources and expertise to our community.

Their commitment to safety and preparedness plays a vital role in enhancing Boone County's resilience, and we are grateful for their support in helping make this festival a success each year.

Together, we are helping build a more resilient and informed Boone County!



Photo (Karl Bussen/Bussen Productions)



Photo: MU Air Medical staff prepare for takeoff (Karl Bussen/Bussen Productions)

STAFF UPDATE

Chris Kelley, Director

This month, Chris participated in virtual tabletop exercise about severe winter weather, gave an emergency management presentation to community members, and was the MC at Ready Fest.

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 completed a course about federal assistance after a disaster, held an outreach booth at Mid-Mo Pride Fest and the Active & Aging event, and continued working on the Boone County Recovery Plan.

Jake Waller, Deputy Director

This month Jake participated in three EOC activations supporting the MU Football home games; taught AHA Basic Life Support to new dispatchers; staffed three outreach events - Ready Festival, Active & Aging, and the Mid-MO Pride Fest; attended the K0376 State Public Assistance Operations course; and interviewed candidates for our Fall internship.

Matt Brown, Training & Exercise Specialist

Matt assisted with Mizzou Football activations in the Emergency Operations Center, attended a Shelter Field Guide training, and completed trailer towing training.

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.

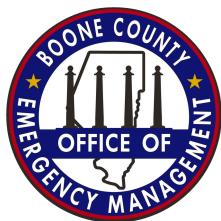
Kraig Johnson, Planning & Preparedness Specialist

This month, Kraig participated in a virtual table top exercise, evaluated an exercise with Truman VA Emergency Management, and continued updating the Boone County Emergency Operations Plan.

ENGAGE WITH OUR OFFICE

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.



Come join almost 7,000 of your friends and neighbors and follow our socials. We are: **@BooneCountyOEM**



For weather information, monthly giveaways and preparedness tips please visit: **@boonecountyready**

Sign up for Free Boone County Ready Alerts
Get weather, emergency, and special-event text and email alerts.

Emergency Alerts:

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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