

Boone County Office of Emergency Management  
**OEM CHRONICLE**



## Spring is Coming!

And with it comes the weather. In Missouri, "spring showers" bring unpredictable weather, ranging from light drizzles to thunderstorms and tornados. As the flowers bloom, residents should stay informed and prepared for severe weather. It's important to monitor local forecasts, have emergency kits ready, and review family emergency plans.

# How To Stay Safe in Severe Weather

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Severe weather can be unpredictable, so be sure to be prepared for anything that might happen. **There are 2 great ways to be prepared.**

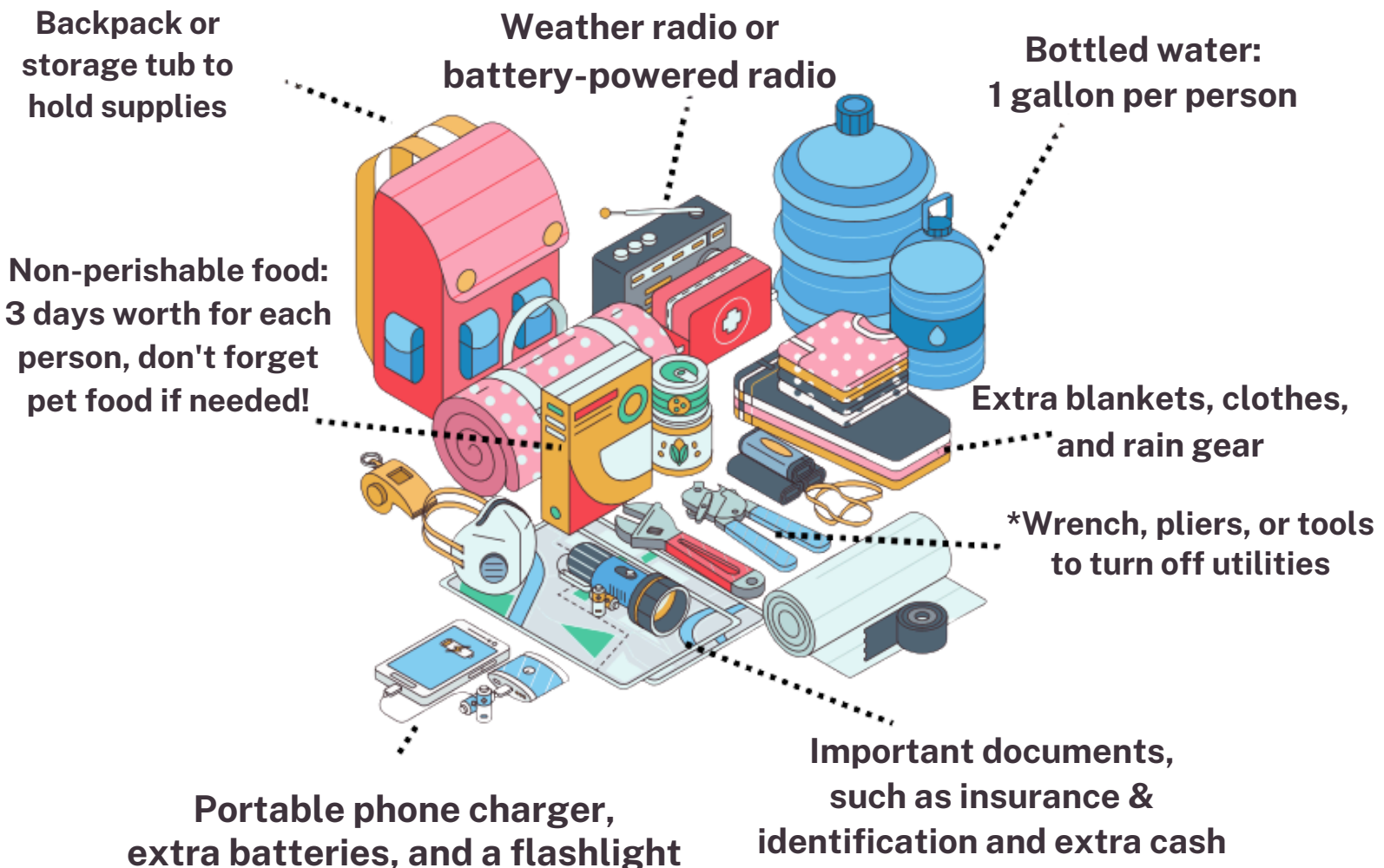
## 1. Make a plan

Making a plan is essential to be prepared. Make sure you know how to reach your family members and pick a place where you can all meet if you get separated.

## 2. Build a Kit

It's smart to have an emergency kit ready for your home, car, and workplace.

### Build your severe weather emergency kit!



# Tornado Watch vs Tornado Warning

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Missouri is gearing up for tornado season so it's time to learn the difference between a tornado **watch** and a tornado **warning**.

**Tornado Watch:** Be prepared! This means a tornado could happen.

**Tornado Warning:** Take action! This means a tornado has been seen.

**A simple, fun way to remember this is to apply it to tacos!**

## TACO WATCH

GET READY: Everything you need for tacos is on the table.



## WHAT DO I DO?

- Review and discuss your emergency plans
- Take inventory of your supplies
- Prepare to seek shelter

Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching.

**Acting early helps to save lives!**

## TACO WARNING

GET TO YOUR SEAT: Tacos have arrived!



## WHAT DO I DO?

- Move to an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building
- Avoid windows
- If in a mobile home, a vehicle, or outdoors, move to the closest shelter and watch for flying debris

# Outdoor Warning Systems

## Why use outdoor warning systems?

Outdoor warning sirens are good for quickly alerting a large population of danger. They are especially effective at alerting people of danger when they are outside and might not have access to regular news sources.

## What should I do if I hear one?

If you hear an outdoor warning siren, seek shelter indoors immediately and turn on a TV or radio. This will help you get more information from local officials about the emergency.

## When are the outdoor warning sirens tested?

The outdoor warning sirens are tested at 12 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. If there is bad weather, the test might be canceled. In addition, Boone County tests the outdoor warning sirens during Missouri's yearly tornado drill in March.

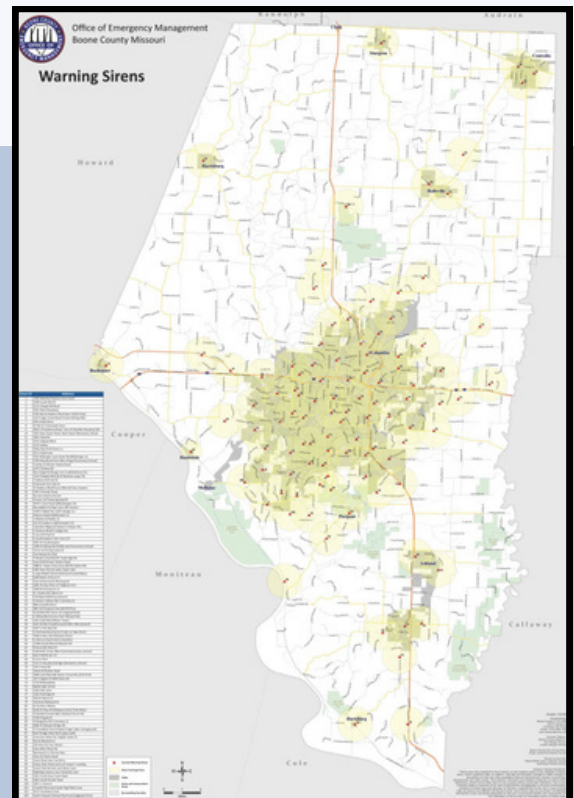


## Siren Locations

Each siren can be heard from an approximate distance of 1 mile. Boone County has a [map](#) showing siren locations. There are currently 103 working sirens in Boone County.

Visit

<https://www.showmeboone.com/oem/resources/sirens.asp>  
for more information about the Outdoor Warning Sirens





# Community Spotlight

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**Preparing and talking about severe weather plans is important in all points of life.**

**Kesley Kobielsuz**  
KOMU

## **Kesley Kobielsuz, Meteorologist at KOMU-TV 8**

My name is Kesley Kobielsuz and I am the midday meteorologist from KOMU 8 News. I'm originally from the suburbs of St. Louis and moved to Columbia in 2019 to pursue my degree at Mizzou. I graduated from the University of Missouri in May 2023 with a degree in Atmospheric Science. For as long as I can remember, I have had an interest in meteorology; however, I did not want to be on tv. I took an internship at KOMU in February 2021 in hopes of ruling out a career field as something I did not want. I ended up loving being in broadcast and started working parttime at KOMU on the weekends in December 2021. I was eventually hired full-time in February 2023.

### **How did you get into this field?**

I got into the field of meteorology mainly because of a tornado that ripped through my hometown in 2011. The Good Friday Tornado was an EF4 tornado that went through Maryland Heights. I remember my family taking shelter during the storm and watching our local news station to get updates, but what stuck out to me the most was what happened after the storm was over. My community banded together and I helped my mom pack up lunches for crews that were out trying to clean up damage. That left me wanting a career where I can help others, and a passion for meteorology.

# Community Spotlight

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## **How can individuals and families better prepare for severe weather in our community?**

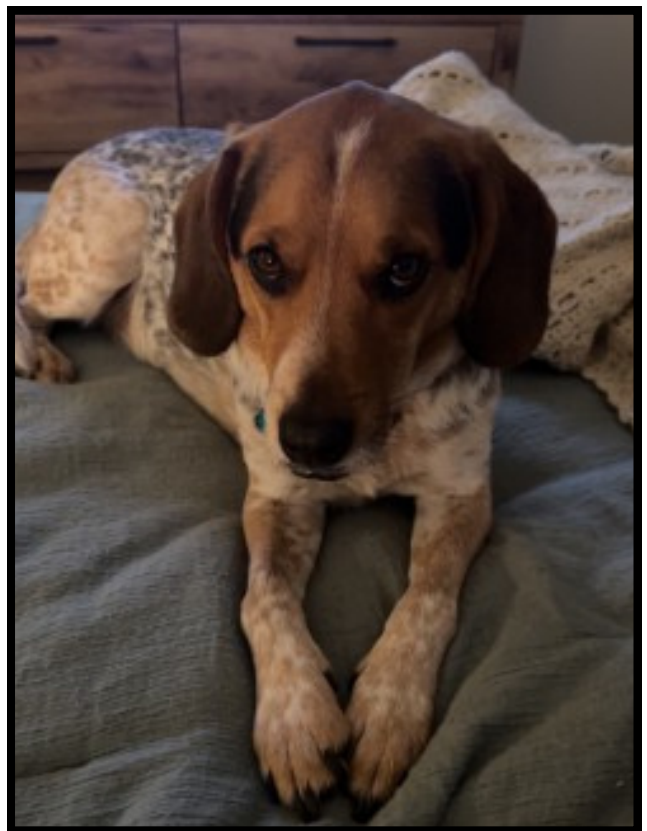
Preparing and talking about severe weather plans are important in all points of life. It's something that we practice at work and school, but severe weather preparedness plans need to be talked about and practiced at home too. Every household should have a plan for where to go in the event of severe weather. Identifying the safest place in your home whether it's a basement or small interior bathroom and creating a "go-kit" should be something that families do. Go-kits should include basics such as batteries, flashlights, and some non-perishable foods and water. Another good tip is to always wear sturdy shoes if you have to seek shelter during a tornado warning. If there is damage, you do not want to be walking around barefoot around debris.

## **What is one fun fact about you?**

I play the clarinet in the Columbia Community Band.

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

Outside of work I love to spend my time outside! I am an avid hiker- my favorite hike is Black Elk Peak in South Dakota, but locally I love the Shooting Star Trailhead at Rock Bridge State Park. I also enjoy trying out new local coffee shops or hanging out with my friends or dog, appropriately named Doppler.





# INTRODUCTION TO THE EOC

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is essential for Boone County's emergency management, coordinating responses and ensuring community preparedness. It serves as a central hub for managing emergencies, facilitating quick responses to crises such as natural disasters and public health issues.

### Key functions of the EOC include:

- Consolidating and exchanging information
- Supporting decision-making
- Coordinating resources
- Communicating with personnel



## FUN FACT



The EOC is an EF-5 rated building. It was built using advanced materials and techniques to ensure structural integrity in extreme conditions. It is equipped with backup power, HVAC systems, and a reliable water supply.

## EOC ACTIVATION LEVELS

<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>NORMAL</b>	<b>ENHANCED</b>	<b>PARTIAL</b>	<b>FULL</b>
OEM is conducting normal operations	EOC is staffed with core group, and they are monitoring conditions	EOC is partially staffed and incident requires some resources	EOC is fully staffed and incident requires significant resources



# SEVERE WEATHER EOC ACTIVATIONS



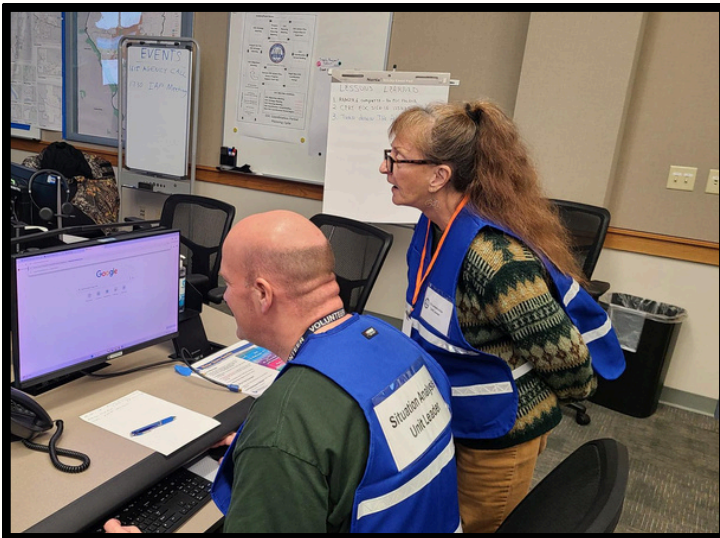
Boone County had an exciting start to the year, which led to four activations in our Emergency Operations Center (EOC)! The first three were from the winter weather. January 5th through January 6th our EOC activated at a level 2. It was also activated February 11th through 12th at a level 3, and again on February 18th.

On March 14th we activated the EOC at a level 2 to assist in coordinating response efforts for a wildland fire in the Hart Creek Conservation Area and the severe weather across Boone County.

From the EOC we collaborated with local partners to establish a reception site at the Ashland Optimist Club to hold residents that were displaced by the fire. All of those residents have been returned to their homes.



Thank you to our partners for working hard to ensure public safety!







# NEW SANDBAG MACHINES



The Office of Emergency Management is excited to share our new sandbag equipment with the public! We are working to increase flood preparedness this year with the purchase of two brand new sandbag machines.

The new sandbag machines will help our Road & Bridge Department and volunteers quickly fill, transport, and distribute sandbags when heavy rain or rising river levels threaten homes, businesses, and infrastructure

We are holding two public demonstrations in April to demonstrate the sandbag machines. Attending the demonstrations will provide the opportunity to chat with the OEM department about flood preparedness efforts.



## Demonstration Dates:

**APRIL 4**

Rocheport

10 am - 12 pm: Katy Trail parking lot. 701 First St.

**APRIL 11**

Hartsburg

10 am - 12 pm, Katy Trail parking lot. 80 S. Second St.



# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The week of March 10th, responders from Boone County and Region F participated in a Type 3 All-Hazard Incident Management Team (O-305) Course! Hosted by the Boone County OEM and coordinated by MU FRTI (University of Missouri Fire & Rescue Training Institute), provides hands-on experience in incident command, resource management, and more.

A special shout-out to the instructors for their expertise and dedication, and to all participants for their hard work and collaboration. Your commitment to enhancing community safety and readiness is commendable.





# TRAINING AND EXERCISE

Training and Exercise has had a very busy start to the New Year. So far, we have conducted a Disability Awareness in Emergency Management course, a Psychological First Aid course, and a Reunification Tabletop Exercise. Additionally, we provided training in Stop the Bleed, BLS CPR, Damage Assessment, and CERT Basic Training.

We participated in important activities such as Sandbag Training, FEMA's Incident Management Team course, a State Emergency Management Communication Exercise, the SEMA Earthquake Symposium, and a Healthcare Coalition Mass Casualty Virtual Exercise, despite challenges from winter and spring storms requiring EOC activations. We strive as always to bring subject matter expertise to the county, and grow our knowledgebase to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. We look forward to the training and exercises to come, and always appreciate people who want to participate.

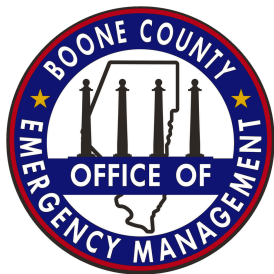


If you're interested in assisting as organizers or mock victims, we will be conducting an airport exercise at the end of April. Please email us at [em@boonecountymo.org](mailto:em@boonecountymo.org) with the subject line "Airport Exercise" if you would like to participate. Have a great spring!



# Boone County Office of Emergency Management

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**



For specific resources and preparedness tips please visit [ready.boonemo.org](http://ready.boonemo.org)

## 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



(573) 544-7900

**CONTACT  
US NOW**



2145 E County Drive  
Columbia, MO 65202