



BE PREPARED. STAY SAFE.

Office of Emergency Management Newsletter, February 2018

Our Mission is to provide a comprehensive and integrated emergency management system that coordinates community resources to protect lives, property and the environment through mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from all natural and manmade hazards that may impact our county.

In this issue:

◆ Upcoming Events

◆ False Alerts

◆ OEM & Do1Thing

◆ OEM Calendar

Upcoming Events

February and March's calendars are filling up! On February 22, 2018 The Office of Emergency Management in conjunction with the National Weather Services is hosting a Storm Spotter Training from 6:30—9:00PM at the American Legion.

Community Emergency Response Team Basic Training will be held March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 24th. Applications are due February 23rd.

For more information about both events, please see the flyers attached. Contact Elizabeth Thompson at 573-554-7910 or ethompson@boonecountymo.org with any questions. We hope to see you soon!

False Alerts: Lessons learned first hand in Hawaii

On January 13th, a member of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency sent out a false alert warning of an incoming ballistic missile. This alert, received by millions, sent fear and panic throughout the state. The alert was sent in error as emergency management officials conducted a routine drill. When events such as this occur and create a widespread impact on communities and officials, we use them as opportunities to learn and move forward with better operational procedures.

The County Auditor, June Pitchford was in Hawaii on vacation with her husband during this event. Ms. Pitchford was kind enough to share her story with us.

Mrs. Pitchford was on Kona, staying on a friend's property located in the Kona District of the island of Hawaii, in a mostly rural area. While she and her husband were on a walk, her husband's cell phone rang with the alert. They proceeded back to the house and turned on the local news to find that local agencies and residents were panicked trying to find shelter and get to safety. They contacted their children to let them know of the situation.

In fear and disbelief, they watched the local news for approximately 45 minutes before the report came that the alert was false. The couple's oldest daughter and her husband were closely watching the situation from their home in Denver, CO, and found out that the alert was false around the same time as those in Hawaii.

Mrs. Pitchford stated that the whole situation was completely surreal. The hardest part of the event was calling her children to tell them goodbye. They remained in Hawaii for another week after the event, and by the time they left, tourist shops were selling t-shirts capitalizing on the event.

While this event never should have happened, it prompted the Office of Emergency Management to review our own notification procedures.

OEM & Do1Thing — Water!

Now that you have an emergency plan, it's time to gather supplies and resources. In February focus on having enough water on-hand for your family to last 3 days (72 hours). This should be about 3 gallons per person.

Whether you live in the country or the city, your water supply relies on electricity to run the system. During a power outage you may find yourself without a way to get water. Your water supply can also become unsafe to drink. Both private wells and city water systems can be contaminated in a disaster.

Choose one of the following things to do this month to become better prepared:

Purchase and store a 72-hour supply of commercially bottled water (or more—up to two weeks)

A three-day supply for one person is 3 gallons of water (one gallon per person per day). Also include an extra one gallon for a medium size pet. That one gallon should last three days, plan for more or less if your pet is very large or very small.

1 day, 1 person = 1 gallon (or 128 ounces) = 7, 20 ounce bottles = 4 liters

3 days, 1 person = 3 gallons (or 384 ounces) = 21, 20 ounce bottles = 12 liters

During an emergency, you should drink at least two quarts (one half gallon) of water a day. Drink 3-4 quarts a day if you are in a hot climate, pregnant, sick, or a child. Some of the water in your emergency water supply will be used for cooking or washing.

If you buy commercially bottled water, it should be replaced once a year. Store your water in a cool, dark place to keep it tasting fresh longer.

Bottle a 72-hour supply of water at home.

If you get your water from a private well, disinfect your tap water before bottling. Place six drops of bleach for each gallon of water, shake well, then let sit for 30 minutes. If you get your water from municipal water system, there is no need to disinfect tap water before bottling.

Replace your water supply every six months if you bottle your own water. Always sanitize bottles before refilling them. Store your water in a cool, dark place.

For more information about water safety and planning, visit <https://www.do1thing.com/>!



OEM Calendar

■ Holiday ■ OEM Staff ■ Public Event

February 8: Salamander Training

February 8: CERT Training

February 9: Region F HHC Meeting

February 12: Lincoln Day—County Offices Closed

February 19: Washington's Birthday - County Offices Closed

February 21: CBCPHEPC Meeting

February 22: NWS Storm Spotter Training

February 23: CERT Applications Due

March 1: CERT Basic Training

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