

OEM CHRONICLE

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the Boone County Office of Emergency Management

Boone County Ready



Boone County Ready, our community preparedness campaign, saw an increase in public interest thanks in part to a news coverage from KOMU 8. On our Boone County Ready website you will find a suite of tools available to enhance community preparedness, foster collaboration and build resilience. This website walks through the 4 steps to preparedness (Be Informed, Make a Plan, Build a Kit, Get Involved) and provides resources you need to accomplish each of those steps.

If you haven't had a chance yet, [HOP](#) on over to the site (ready.boonemo.org) and check it out. Whether you live, work, study, or play in Boone County, there's something for you. Perhaps we will get to chat this summer at [one of these planned events](#).



Boone County—are **YOU** ready?

Happening soon...

- Apr 1st**, April Fools Day
- Apr 6th**, #SafePlaceSelfie Day
- Apr 7th, 10am**, Region F EMD Meeting
- Apr 10th—16th**, [National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week \(PSTW\)](#)
- Apr 13th, 7pm**, [National Weather Service \(NWS\) Storm Spotter Class](#)
- Apr 17th**, Easter
- Apr 20th, 1pm**, [Quarterly LEPC Meeting](#)
- Apr 22nd**, Earth Day
- Apr 24th, 12pm**, [Earth Day Festival](#)
- Apr 29th**, Arbor Day
- Apr 30th**, [Smart911 Day](#)

Looking ahead...

- May 18th, TBD**, BCOEM hosts Dam Safety Workshop [\(Free event, register here\)](#)
- May 30th**, Office closed

Your Safe Place from Tornadoes



#SafePlaceSelfie day is April 6th. Join us by finding your safe place, whether at home, school, work or out on the town. The more, the merrier! We will be sharing our safe place selfie on our socials—if you're not yet, connect with us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram! A safe place is different depending on the type of hazards you face too. For instance, if a tornado threatens you, your safe place will be different than if you are threatened by a house fire, flood or active shooter.

Our [Boone County Ready webpage](#) has the tools you need for learning more about all hazards and becoming Boone County Ready.

911 Education

Boone County Joint Communications is our local 911 operations center. 911 education has been around for decades and has made a lot of progress through community outreach and education initiatives. Anything that is an immediate threat to life safety should be called in using 911. To report a crime that is no longer in progress or is no longer actively putting anyone in danger, call 311. For more information on Boone County's 311 line, visit 311.boonecountymmo.org

Many programs, [such as this one](#), are aimed at educating children and teens on calling 911; however, adults often need reminders as well! We are going to review a few of those "[Things Everyone Needs to Know](#)" items for 911 Education Month. An informed caller is the best caller! When you have to call 911, it's important that you are prepared with necessary information to help them help you.

1. Deputy Director of BCJC, Joe Piper, says that one of the most important things people should know when they call 911 is their location. "Do not assume the operators know exactly where you are, because they may not."
2. Secondly, it is critical that you stay calm. If you become hysterical, 911 operators may not be able to understand you.
3. Lastly, never hang up! Even if you call 911 by accident, stay on the line and let them know what is going on. If you hang up the phone, 911 operators will assume that help is still needed and something has happened to the connection. Remember, their job is to send help to you. They will do that to the best of their ability.



Do!Thing

Each month complete ONE of the suggested activities from this section and by the end of the year—you will be better prepared for emergency and disaster.

April Goal:

[Have an emergency food supply that will meet the needs of your household for three days without outside help.](#)

Suggested Activities:

1. [Buy a three-day emergency food supply for your household](#)
2. [Take steps to ensure food in your refrigerator and freezer will stay safe, or](#)
3. [Make sure you can meet any special dietary needs in your household.](#)

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Partner Spotlight

April is 911 Education Month as well as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (PSTW) so it's only fitting that we put this month's spotlight on Boone County Joint Communications (BCJC). BCJC is in the same building as our office and includes our county's heroes in headsets, the 911 dispatchers. As mentioned during last month's spotlight, OEM and the American Red Cross (ARC) are reaching out to our rural schools to provide Youth Preparedness Days to kids grades K-5th. During this, BCJC will be joining us to educate kids on what they should do when they must call 911 and reinforcing that "you're never too small to call". Dispatchers are the first 'First Responders'. Without someone to answer the 911 call and dispatch fire, law or EMS — help would never come. Their work is critical to public safety. If you are looking to start a career with paid training that offers competitive pay and great benefits —look no further. BCJC is now hiring for all shifts. Not only can you make a difference in our community but you also get to work with our public safety partners! Our 911 operators are an intelligent, fun and hilarious group of men and women.

Apply today!

For more information about Boone County Joint Communications, visit their webpage here.

Financial EMERGENCY KIT

Don't skip over this! Promise—I am not about to preach to you about saving money. Financial literacy, knowing how to budget, save, borrow, invest, not only is a critical part of getting through daily life but also for preparing financially for an emergency. According to Operation Hope, 42% of Americans are financially stressed and 67% know that they don't have enough money saved for an emergency. Becoming financially literate is something that we as citizens can work towards not only for emergency preparedness but to live economically stable lives. A financial emergency kit is so much more than having a 'just-in-case' fund. While yes, it is important to continuously work towards reducing your personal debt so that you qualify for loans to recover and saving extra funds for out-of-pocket costs from disaster, it's also not the only thing you can be doing. A Financial Emergency Kit is primarily things that you should gather—so it takes zero extra money and reconfiguring your budget to do this part!



The Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) from FEMA walks you through all of the critical financial and personal identification documents that you should have gathered and stored in a waterproof and fireproof case. Think about it, if your home burns down, floods or is hit by a tornado — would you have these critical records gathered together to quickly evacuate with you? If you answered no, keep reading. If you answered yes, you'll probably keep reading as well because you have the mindset of a resilient citizen.

Your financial emergency kit should include copies of your drivers license, insurance policies, proof of ownership for personal property, critical records (such as birth certificates, marriage licenses, etc.), bank account information, custody agreements, will, deeds, etc. Many of us have these things saved electronically which is a great start! However, make sure to have hard copies of all important documents in addition to the electronic copies since the cloud is not always secure or reliable.

Our office has hard copies of the EFFAK for our citizens. If you would like one, reach out to me directly and we can work together to figure out the best way to get that to you. It's also available online on our Boone County Ready website if you would like to view or print it out yourself.

Boone County—are **YOU** ready?

Smart911

Download the Smart911 App to your phone and opt-in to start receiving emergency alerts and notifications.



Get In Touch

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Hey There...

If this is your first time here—welcome! I hope you find the content in this newsletter useful, educational or at the least somewhat interesting.

Gas prices have been quickly climbing over the past year and a half. Even more so since the US ban on Russian oil, gas and coal imports. Russia is the third biggest producer of oil in the world, just behind the US and Saudi Arabia. However, unlike Europe, the US doesn't get the majority of it's gas from Russia and is therefore less impacted. Recently, President Biden has ordered a large release of our oil reserves in an effort to stop the rise in fuel costs. If you haven't noticed, you must not be driving much —consider yourself lucky!

China is currently experiencing their largest spike and has locked down Shanghai. The BA.2 variant is now more contagious than the omicron variant but not all experts are concerned about a rise in cases in the US.

The effects of climate change are being felt worldwide and younger generations are standing up to protest the inadequate response to the threat. The 26th annual Conference of Parties (COP26) was held at the end of last year and although there was great discussion, many believe the COP is falling short of accomplishing real change.

If you have a minute, I would love to hear your thoughts on future newsletters, community outreach events or the Boone County Ready campaign.

Hannah