

OEM CHRONICLE

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



Boone County Ready

BE INFORMED. MAKE A PLAN. BUILD A KIT. GET INVOLVED.



Boone County Ready, our community preparedness campaign, has a lot of plans in the works for this summer. Beginning May 13th, we will staff an outreach table the second Friday of each month in an effort to connect with citizens, actively engage them in preparedness and increase citizen knowledge of the Boone County Ready mission and [website of tools](#).

The Boone County Ready monthly giveaways have officially kicked off. You'll **DEFINITELY** wanna follow and like @BooneCountyReady on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) (@BooneCoReady on [Twitter](#)) for a chance to win those each month! This month's giveaway is a large canvas tote filled with our preparedness materials and a custom insulated water bottle.

The Boone County Ready website houses a suite of tools available to enhance community preparedness, foster collaboration and build resilience. Whether you live, work, study, or play in Boone County, there's something for you.

Boone County—are YOU ready?

As part of the Boone County Ready community preparedness campaign, the Boone County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will host a Dam Safety Workshop that is free and open to the public on May 18th, from 5pm—9pm at the Boone County Sheriff's Annex. Regulated and unregulated dam owners and operators, dam industry stakeholders and citizens are all encouraged to attend.



Boone County Ready Dam Safety Workshop

Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will join OEM in presenting topics such as Dam Basics, Dam Engineering 101 and Emergency Action Planning for dam owners.



[Deadline to register is May 16th](#). Scan the QR code to register!

Wildfire Prevention



The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) oversees [Fire Management](#) and [Wildfire Prevention](#) statewide. Wildfires are preventable if we follow the required safety measures provided by MDC. As [Smokey the Bear](#) says, "only YOU can prevent forest fires." As residents of Boone County, many of us live in a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). WUI are found in every part of the country where people live in areas with vegetation near houses and little clearance. Learn more about reducing the risk from wildfire if you live in the WUI [here](#). According to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) [wildfire embers can travel up to 24 miles](#) before landing.

[Campfires](#), [outdoor equipment](#) and [debris burning](#) can lead to wildfire if best practices are not followed. Learn more about wildfire prevention [here](#).

[Preparing for wildfires](#) is like preparing for any other emergency or disaster, [there are 4 key steps!](#)

1. **Be Informed:** Have several ways to receive alerts. Download the Smart911 App and opt-in to emergency notification through Boone County Ready Alerts.
2. **Make a Plan:** Make sure everyone in your household knows and understands what to do if your location is threatened and you need to evacuate.
3. **Build a Kit:** Have enough supplies for your household and pets, including a first aid kit, in your go bag and your vehicle. Make sure your important documents are in a water & fireproof container.
4. **Get Involved:** Create a fire-resistant zone that is free of flammable materials at least 30 feet from your home. Know your evacuation routes, practice with your household, pets and identify where you will meet.

Unfortunately, many wildfires are set intentionally. You can help stop Forest Arson by calling 800-392-1111 and making an anonymous report

Happening soon...

May, [Wildfire Awareness Month](#)

May 3rd, 6:30pm—8pm, [BCARES Meeting](#)

May 8th, Mother's Day

May 11th—17th, [National Police Week](#)

May 12th, 6:30pm—8pm, [CERT Meeting](#)

May 15th—21st, [National EMS Week](#)

May 13th, 9am—2pm, [Boone County Ready Community Outreach Event at Columbia Mall](#)

May 18th, 5pm—9pm, [BCOEM hosts Dam Safety Workshop](#) [\[Free event, register here\]](#)

May 18th, 6pm—8pm, [Family Fun Fest, Cosmo Park](#)

May 26th, TBD, [SEMA's New Madrid Exercise](#)

May 30th, [Memorial Day](#), Office closed

Looking ahead...

June, [Pet Preparedness Month](#)

June 9th, 6:30pm—8pm, [CERT Meeting](#)

June 10th, 9am—2pm, [Boone County Ready Community Outreach Event at Columbia Mall](#)

June 15th, 6pm—8pm, [Family Fun Fest, Clary-Shy Park](#)

June 19th, Father's Day

June 19th—25th, [National Lightning Safety Awareness Week](#)

June 20th, [Juneteenth](#), Office closed

June 29th, 8am—5pm, [DOT TAG Training, Boone County Sheriff's Annex](#)

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.

May Goal:

[Make sure the people who count on you are prepared for a disaster.](#)

Suggested Activities:

1. [Make sure emergency procedures are in place for your school or workplace.](#)
2. [Give emergency kits to those who count on you.](#)
3. [Know how others in your community will respond in a disaster.](#)

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Partner Spotlight

May hosts National Dam Safety Day on May 31st and also the OEM's Boone County Ready Dam Safety Workshop on May 18th. Therefore, this month's spotlight is on Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The mission of DNR is to protect Missouri's air, land, water, and mineral resources. They have a range of services available to help Missouri citizens, communities and businesses to protect and improve air, land and water resources. DNR has divisions for administrative support, energy, environmental quality, state parks, and geological surveys. The State of Missouri's Dam and Reservoir Safety Program is overseen by DNR within the Geological Survey Division. Ryan Stack, PE, is the Dam and Reservoir Safety Program Director and has been instrumental in the development of the Boone County Ready Dam Safety Workshop being held on May 18th in which he brings vital dam safety information to the citizens of Boone County. They work with local governments and dam owners and operators to ensure all regulated dam owners and operators have emergency action plans in place across the state of Missouri. For more information about Missouri's Dam and Reservoir Safety Program, visit their webpage [here](#).

Understanding Alerts & Warnings

Alerts and warnings are intended to notify the public when there is impending hazardous weather or other local emergencies. In order for the alerts and warnings to be effective, you need to understand what they mean and what actions you should take, right?

There are three types of weather alerts issued by the National Weather Service (NWS):

1. **Advisory:** This is telling you to be aware of the situation. NWS is phasing this out.
2. **Watch:** This is telling you to be prepared for the situation because it may impact your location.
3. **Warning:** This is telling you to take action for the situation because it is occurring and could be life threatening.

Not all hazards have an advisory, watch or warning. Learn more about watches and warnings [here](#). You can use the '12 Ways to Prepare' information available [here](#) to learn what you can do before disaster strikes.

Last year, the NWS began issuing a "Destructive Tag" with Severe Thunderstorm Warnings. A "destructive tag" now sets off Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) when a warning is issued that includes either 80+ mph winds or baseball-sized hail. Boone County's Outdoor Warning Sirens (OWS) also initiate in the event of a Severe Thunderstorm Warning with a "destructive tag" from the NWS. For more information on this, please contact our office.

In addition to alerts pushed by the NWS, our office utilizes Boone County Ready Alerts, powered by Smart911, to push out emergency notifications to those who have created a safety profile and opted-in to receive notifications. This service is paid for by tax dollars and free to all who live, work and play in Boone County **but** it is subscription-based meaning you have to opt-in in order to receive the notifications and take advantage of the benefits the service offers. To find out if you are opted-in for alerts, open your Smart911 app, go to 'Settings' -> 'Subscription-Based' -> Toggle 'Notifications from Boone County, MO Office of Emergency Management / 911' so that it turns blue. Then, scroll through the list and opt-in to the alerts that are applicable to you. You can sign up for Text, Email or Voice Call (listed in that order). Still having trouble? Give me a call and I can walk you through it!



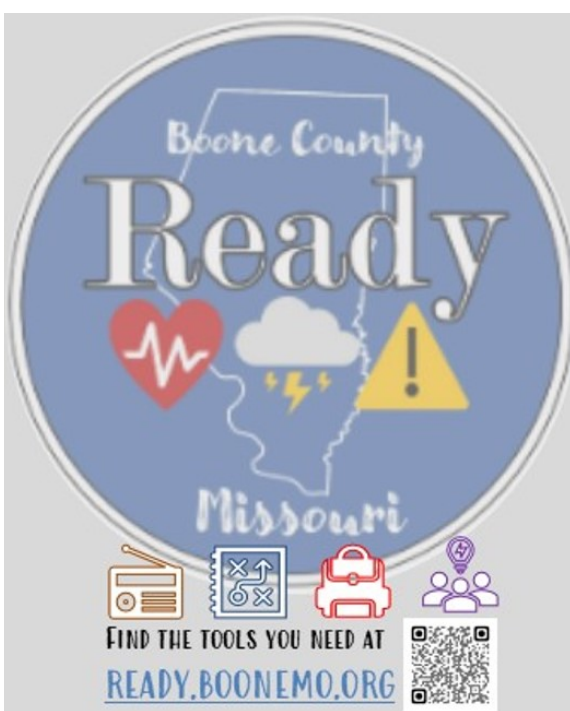
Our office has hard copies of FEMA's Guide for Alerts and Warnings for our citizens free of charge and it's a magnet so you can keep it on your fridge—super handy! If you would like one, reach out to me directly and we can work together to figure out the best way to get that to you.

Boone County—are YOU ready?

A note she wrote...

Well, we got plenty of April showers—bring on the May flowers [\(and bees, wasps, and hornets\)](#)! Did you know the NWS has weather stories? I love it—check it out [here](#). April officially kicked off our outreach season! Fun fact about me: I **love** participating in community events. It's definitely my favorite part of my job and, in my opinion, the most important. My job is to protect and prepare our community; to keep you safe. Can I come to each of your homes, make your plans, build your kits, sign you up for Boone County Ready Alerts and practice your evacuation routes with you? Absolutely not. Shocking, I know, but this Outreach Hero can only do so much. The best way that I can help my community is to educate you and provide you with the tools you need to prepare yourself. I am here to empower YOU to keep yourself, your family, your pets and your household safe. I want my community to be resilient. In the event of an emergency or disaster I want you to not only survive but bounce back quickly. In order for that to happen, you have to prepare now. I can't make you **but** I can be in the community where you shop and hang out providing you with what you need to prepare whenever you're ready. I would love to get to the point where you see me everywhere and think to yourself 'is she following me?' but in a cute, non-creepy way. We can be on first name basis and you can ask me 'Hannah, how are you everywhere?!' and I can respond 'Elle, you didn't know I could teleport?!'. I digress. Did I mention I've started Monthly Giveaways through the Boone County Ready socials and I mean who doesn't love free stuff? Flip over for more info on that. If anyone is interested in moving from a Ready Reader to a Ready Ambassador and assist me with spreading the word on Boone County Ready, please shoot me an email, call or text so we can work together!

Hannah



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