

BOONE COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

# OEM CHRONICLE

## RESOLVE TO BE READY



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SHOWMEBOONE.COM/OEM



## WICHERN WISDOM

Hey everyone and Happy New Year!

As you can see, we have made a few updates to our OEM Chronicle. This is in part due to the tremendous feedback we received from our subscribers.

**THANK YOU!!**

The newsletter will be about the same length and will still be sent monthly but I'm ditching the fancy fonts (almost all of them) and spacing items out to make for easier reading.

Let me know what you think - the good, the bad and the ugly.

*Hannah*



## CHRIS' COMMENTARY

The new year is a good time for families and local businesses and organizations to think about emergency preparedness. For 2023 make an easy resolution to be prepared! As you start thinking about your goals in 2023 make the commitment to be **READY** at all levels; personally, at home with your family, at work and with your neighbors. Resolve to be more prepared to protect yourself and your loved ones when a disaster strikes.

Visit our Boone County Ready webpage, [ready.boonemo.org](http://ready.boonemo.org), for the tools you need to be #BooneCountyReady.

**-Chris Kelley, Deputy Director**

## MEET PAIGE, THE PLANNER

*PAIGE LEWIS, PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS SPECIALIST*

Paige is a volunteer firefighter with Boone County Fire Protection District. She is currently pursuing her Bachelor's degree at the University of Central Missouri.

Paige is looking forward to "learning from my coworkers about how we are working together to make Columbia, MO and surrounding areas a safer community, while planning for the future." She was born & raised in COMO and is excited to grow her career in her hometown.

Shoot her a 'Welcome' email at [PLewis@BooneCountyMO.org](mailto:PLewis@BooneCountyMO.org)



# WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS

Winter weather can be pretty extreme. Depending on the time of day that winter weather hits, it could cause you to be stranded at home, work or school. If you want to be prepared for a winter storm no matter where you are - start by making an emergency kit for your home (or your car - see below). During winter weather it is possible that you could lose power or water. Having an emergency kit prepared allows for you to be ready whenever an emergency happens. Our emergency kit checklist is a great resource for all weather hazards. When preparing for winter storms, if you are able to, gather supplies that could get your family through for 2 weeks. Although three days is a good start for a go bag (a portable emergency kit for if you need to leave your home quickly), it's likely if you are sheltering at home that you could need up to 2 weeks of supplies. The key is to build up to it a little at a time, starting with a 3-day baseline.

I WANT TO GET WINTER READY



## WINTER CAR KIT

Winter weather causes an increase in traffic accidents. You could be stranded on the highway for hours due to an accident or maybe lose control of your own vehicle and end up in a ditch. Keep your gas tank half full and gather these necessary items to keep in your car today.

VIEW FULL KIT CHECKLIST



## POWER OUTAGES

Power outages can be prepared for in advance. Follow the 4 steps of preparedness (see Boone County Ready section on page 5). It's a good idea to have several flashlights, extra batteries, lots of blankets, a back-up power pack for your smart devices, and, if possible, a generator.

LEARN MORE



## JANUARY

2nd: Office Closed

4th: Outdoor Warning Siren Test, 12pm

6th: Youth Preparedness Presentation, 2:15pm - 3:30pm at Columbia Independent Schools (9th - 12th)

11th: Community Presentation, 1pm - 2pm, Bethel Ridge Estates II

12th: Monthly CERT Meeting, 6:30pm - 8:30pm at the Emergency Communications Center (ECC)

16th: Office Closed

18th: Quarterly LEPC Meeting, 1pm - 2:30pm at the ECC

24th: Region F EMA MOSWIN Test at 9am

24th: NWS SKYWARN Storm Spotter Training, 6:30pm - 8:30pm at The Crossing



## FEBRUARY

1st: Outdoor Warning Siren Test, 12pm

8th: Annual LEPC Functional Exercise, 1pm - 5pm

9th: Monthly CERT Meeting, 6:30pm - 8:30pm at the ECC

15th: Career Expo, 11am - 2pm at Columbia College

20th: Office Closed

[VIEW ALL EVENTS](#)



## PRESENTATIONS

Are you interested in having the OEM come to your organization, group/club meeting, or school to give a presentation on preparedness? We can tailor presentations to suite any age group, group size, or organizational specialty.

[EMAIL US YOUR INTEREST](#)

# IN THE NEWS



Boone County saw historic wind chills Christmas week which prompted warming shelters to open. Winter Storm Elliott killed nearly 60 people, delayed flights and affected energy infrastructure. Eastern US Power Grid issued a Stage 2 System-Wide Emergency during the winter storm as well.

In LA, a state of emergency is declared for homelessness while in El Paso a state of emergency is declared for a surge in migration along the US-Mexico border. Metropolitan Water District, the nation's largest water supplier, has announced a drought emergency for all of Southern California; a move that will likely bring water restrictions to the area in 2023.

Jamaica has issued a statewide emergency to fight violent crime which allows for search and arrest without warrant. A Rohingya refugee ship that was believed to be lost at sea for two weeks was rescued. Over a million Rohingya refugees have fled violence in Myanmar in successive waves of displacement since the early 1990s. An influx that the United Nations Refugee Agency believes is one of the largest and fastest growing migrant crises in decades.



## RESOURCE CORNER

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MO DOT) offers an extremely useful and free resource for Missouri residents called the Traveler Map. This map allows users to check their planned routes to make sure road conditions and traffic flow are favorable and safe for the drive.

The MO DOT Traveler Map can be found at [traveler.modot.org/map](https://traveler.modot.org/map)

FIND OUT MORE



## DO 1 THING

- Learn about the hazards in your community.
- Make a plan for what you will do during winter weather emergencies.
- Determine meeting places outside of your home, neighborhood and community.
- Gather hard copies of important documents in one place and make a digital copy as well.

DO 1 THING WEBSITE

# BOONE COUNTY READY

The mission of the Boone County Ready campaign is to enhance community preparedness, foster collaboration and build resilience by engaging our citizens in actively preparing for emergencies and disasters.

Here's how you can become #BooneCountyReady for winter weather:

## 1. Be Informed

Create a Boone County Ready, powered by Smart911, safety profile, opt-in for weather alerts, traffic alerts, emergency alerts and Boone County Ready non-emergency notifications. Purchase a battery-operated or hand crank NOAA weather radio so you can stay aware if the other communication sources are down.

## 2. Make a Plan

Talk to your household about what to do if you are separated during an emergency or stranded in cold weather. Make an evacuation plan. Talk to your doctor for advice on storing medicine or using power-dependent devices.

## 3. Build a Kit

Have a car kit in your vehicle at all times, and a well-stocked emergency kit in your home (for each household member) in the event of a power outage or consecutive snowed in days.

## 4. Get Involved

Educate yourself on the signs of hypothermia and frostbite and learn how you would treat them. Install carbon monoxide detectors with battery back-up throughout the house. Ensure you have fire extinguishers in your home and that everyone knows how to use them (Google P.A.S.S.) Know how to shut off your main water valve in case a pipe bursts from the cold.



## WHAT DO YOU NEED?

We have hard copies of preparedness materials available for you! Let us know what materials you need to accomplish your preparedness goals. For digital copies and information visit the Boone County Ready website.

573-554-7900 / EM@BooneCountyMO.org

READY.BOONEMO.ORG

# WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

We hope everyone had a happy holiday, Merry Christmas, a happy new year, and will continue to have a blessed year - all year long.

For 2023, we will use this section to provide our readers with a recap of projects each of us have been working on during the previous month.

For now, we are going to share a few of our accomplishments from 2022. We look forward to serving our community in the year to come and the opportunities for growth it may offer.



Bart assisted with maintaining our generators, updating equipment inventory and compiling active shooter kits for first responders.

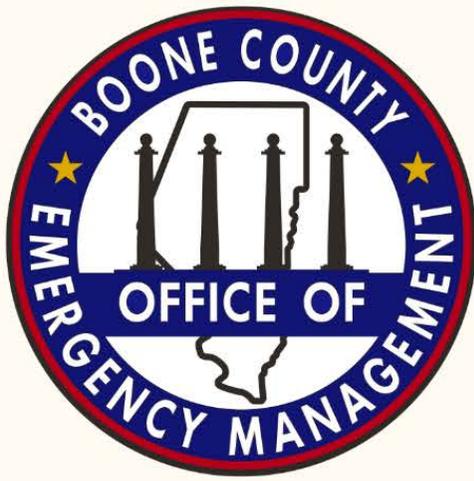
Paige started with OEM on December 5th, quickly adapting to the work environment, and getting familiar with her role and responsibilities as Planning and Preparedness Specialist. During her first month with our team, she began working under Sherril Gladney to learn about the county's plan she is responsible for maintaining.

Sherril gathered information from OEM and developed an end-of-the-year update to our Strategic Plan. Sherril began updates to the Boone County Hazard Mitigation Plan and working with our new Planning & Preparedness Specialist, Paige Lewis, as she settles into her new role.

Matt coordinated both the full-scale Columbia Regional Airport Triennial Exercise and the annual LEPC tabletop exercise. He fostered the growth of the CERT Team by helping to bring in 5 new members and delivered in-person Basic Training again for the first time since COVID-19. He was also accepted to the FEMA Master Exercise Practitioner Program where he will join high class exercise design staff from around the country in honing his exercise design skills.

Hannah was able to cross off several of her professional goals in 2022 thanks to collaboration with her OEM co-workers. She was able to take a public information training, launch the Boone County Ready community preparedness campaign, beginning the process to bring IPAWS to the county, draft the county's Disaster Recovery Plan and nearly close out both of the county's open public assistance applications for COVID-19 and the June 2021 flooding.

Chris believes the OEM overall has accomplished many things to be proud of, more than could fit in this section! With the help of OEM staff, he was able to activate the EOC in order to monitor MU home football games with stakeholders including the National Weather Service, Boone County Sheriff's Office, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Columbia Fire Dept., Columbia Police Dept., and University of Missouri entities including MU System Emergency Management, MU Athletics, MU Health and the MU Police Dept.



## WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

WE WANT TO COVER TOPICS THAT MATTER TO YOU!

The OEM Chronicle is a compilation of relevant seasonal information to help those who live, work, and play in Boone County become better prepared for emergencies.

What are you interested in learning more about? Do you have any topic ideas?

Don't live in Boone County? No worries!

Many of the resources that we have, and all 4 preparedness steps, can be utilized in surrounding counties.

If you would like to information about your local emergency management agency, let us know and we can get you in touch with them.

Contact us today!

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