



OEM CHRONICLE

Boone County
Office of Emergency Management



MARCH FLOOD AWARENESS MONTH

Did you know that flooding is the deadliest severe weather hazard in Missouri?

With spring just around the corner, it's important for Boone County residents to be prepared for whatever nature throws our way, including extreme flooding events.

FLOOD AWARENESS MONTH

What are floods?

Flooding can happen anywhere and at anytime. Floods can be caused by natural elements such as severe weather, or structural failures such as a levee or dam breach.

Due to the variety of sources that can cause flooding, the speed it can develop varies as well. The most dangerous type, flash floods, can occur very quickly. So it is important to make a plan and prepare ahead of time to keep you and your family safe.

Do we need to worry about flooding in the county?

Yes! Mid-Missouri has a history of dealing with flooding events, and will continue to do so in the future.

The Great Flood of 1993 tested our resilience as a community. With a combination of oversaturated soil and severe weather, the Missouri river flooded the region multiple times over a five month period.

This flooding event was one of the worst floods on record in United States history. Financial losses totaled over \$37 billion when adjusted for today's rates, with an incalculable loss to the environment and human suffering.



Photo: Rising flood waters in 2021 overtaking a bridge in Hartsburg, MO (BCOEM Archives).



Photo: Missouri River flood waters swamping U.S Highway 54 July, 1993 (Missouri Department of Transportation).

HOW TO PREPARE

Previous flooding disasters might sound scary, but don't worry, OEM has your back!

In just 4 easy steps, you can become **Boone Ready** for whatever hazard we face in the future.

Step 1: Be Informed

- Sign up for Boone County Ready Alerts to receive notifications and emergency alerts from our office. You can do this at <http://bcoem.info/49hYW17>
- Listen to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio, local news station, and emergency notifications for the latest severe weather advisories.
- Review your flood risk.



Step 2: Make A Plan

- Designate your severe weather safe place.
- Know your primary and alternate evacuation route.
- Tailor your plan based off of your life situation.
 - Are you a student?
 - Do you have children?
 - Do you have any pets?
 - Do you own a small business?
 - Do you have access/functional needs?
- Email us at em@boonecountymo.org for more information!

Step 3: Build a Kit

- Have an emergency kit for your home, car, workplace, and a “Go Bag” for a speedy evacuation.
- Kits should include having access to a 3-day supply of (non-perishable) food and water (1 gallon for each person). You can also include items like flashlights, power banks, a first aid kit, books, and more!
- Visit Ready.gov, or email us at em@boonecountymmo.org for more information on how to assemble an emergency kit!



Step 4: Get Involved

The first people you will see after a disaster are your neighbors! So, its important for all of us to be personally prepared so that we can then help others who need it the most. You can get involved by:

- Practicing your emergency plans.
- Updating your emergency kits yearly.
- Joining the Boone County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Volunteering for a local not-for-profit agency
- Applying for an Internship at our Office.



Boone County - are YOU ready?



BOONE COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

For the month of March, we'd like to spotlight one of our local partners who work hard to make Boone County such a great place to live, work, and recreate in. This month we'd like to recognize Karen Grindler.

Please introduce yourself and your organization:

My name is Karen Grindler. I am the Founder and Director of Cedar Creek Therapeutic Riding Center.

What does your organization provide?

Cedar Creek provides Equestrian Therapy to Children and Adults with physical, mental and emotional disabilities.

What are some challenges you face?

Volunteers play a vital role in the safety of our Riders! Our biggest challenge is making sure we have Horses that are well trained, sound and gentle for the program. We also must ensure enough community support to keep our staff and horses happy!

How do you like to spend your time outside of work?

In my free time I like to camp, fish and frequent the live music scene down the road at Coopers Landing!

What's one thing on your bucket list?

I have still to visit Machu Picchu, Greenland, The Galapagos and Mauritius!

Thanks so much for the work you do – what else should our readers know about you and your organization?

Cedar Creek is a great place to come if you want to experience pure Joy! It has been proven that experiencing Pure Joy is the key to lifelong happiness!! So come on out and live life to the fullest helping people and join the Therapy Team!!



TRAINING & EXERCISE

Training and Exercise as always has been busy for the month of March. Being Spring, and the beginning of Severe Weather Season, there are many initiatives and informational pushes that need to get out.

The Emergency Management (EM) team hosted another tabletop exercise in our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) series, practicing new systems and shared situational awareness with our partners. Thanks to Columbia Fire Department and Boone Health EMS for being our partner simulators.

We also hosted a class for our CERT and the local Red Cross in First Aid/CPR/AED and compression only CPR train-the-trainer.



Photo: Specialist Matt Brown hosting a First Aid/CPR training for Red Cross and CERT members.

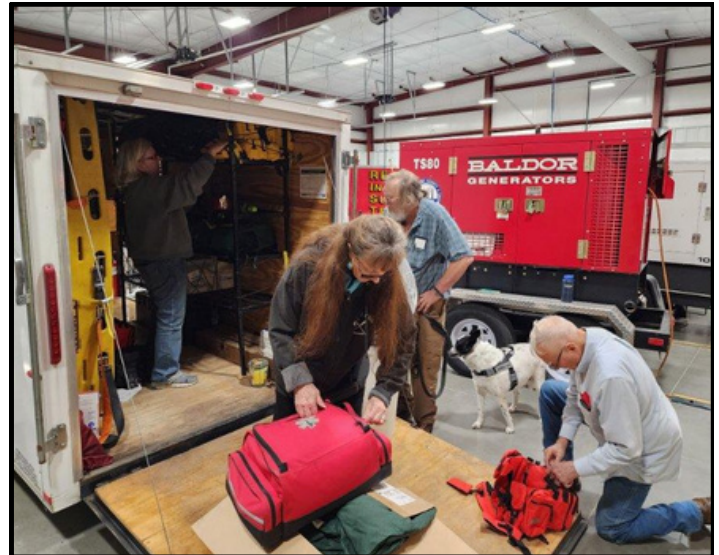


Photo: CERT members taking inventory of OEM disaster supplies.



Photo: CERT members participating in team-building exercises.

STAFF UPDATE

Kraig Johnson, Planning & Preparedness Specialist

Kraig attended the Voluntary Agency Coordination in Disasters course which highlighted the importance of community and volunteer resource management before, during, and after a disaster. He also instructed a CERT basic training class for local community members

Kraig also continues to work on continuity planning, the Emergency Operations Plan, and the Mass Fatality Plan.

Chris Lewin, Mitigation & Recovery Specialist

This month, Chris continues with his onboarding process. He is developing an inaugural youth program for Boone County students - more to come on that later this spring!

Chris also staffed a PR booth at the Narcan Town Hall meeting, and participated in the internal EOC exercise.

Jake Waller, Deputy Director

This month, Jake finished up the Basic Academy by taking courses Science of Disaster and Planning: Emergency Operations, participated in both the Non-urban Healthcare Coalition Surge Exercise and an internal exercise about EOC operations.

He also gave a presentation about emergency management to a group of students in MU's MHA program, and staffed in the EOC during an activation for severe weather.

Matt Brown, Training & Exercise Specialist

This month, Matt completed the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) Operations and Situational Awareness Skillsets course offered by FEMA.

Matt hosted a variety of trainings, including the Boone County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, a Storm Spotter training, a First Aid/CPR/AED training for local community members, and facilitated a tabletop exercise that included staff from OEM, Columbia Fire Department, and Boone Health EMS!

Bart Messer, Administrative Assistant

Bart worked on building active assailant kits with Della, and participated in an internal EOC exercise. He also answered phone calls to the ECC, updated our EOC computers, checked the OEM vehicles biweekly, and paid the bills.

Chris Kelley, Director

Chris completed his final FEMA EOC Operation Skillset curriculum course this month. He also made headwind on identifying debris removal resources to activate in the event of a large scale incident.

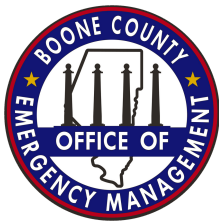
Della Luster, Administrative Coordinator

Della built active shooter kits with Bart and participated in the internal EOC exercise. She also reconciled our purchasing cards and made sure that everyone in the office got paid!

ENGAGE WITH OUR OFFICE

The Boone County Office of Emergency Management OEM Chronicle contains preparedness information to help those who live, work, and visit Boone County become better prepared for emergencies.

If you have any suggestions about content to add to the Chronicle, please don't hesitate to reach out by emailing EM@boonecountymo.org.



Come join almost 7,000 of your friends and neighbors and follow our socials. We are: **@BooneCountyOEM**



For weather information, monthly giveaways and preparedness tips please visit: **@boonecountyready**

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.



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