



OEM CHRONICLE

Boone County
Office of Emergency Management



APRIL SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY

April has arrived, and so have the showers that come with it!

Now is the best time to review the hazards we face and the steps you can take to be Boone County Ready!

SPRING SAFETY: SEVERE WEATHER

What is severe weather?

Severe weather includes any hazardous weather conditions, such as thunderstorms, strong winds, tornados, hail, and flooding. In the springtime, Missouri weather can be unpredictable. At any time, Boone County could experience one or more of these conditions. It's important to understand severe weather risks and make sure you are prepared heading into spring.

What severe weather is in Boone County?

There are a variety of weather risks in the Central Missouri area. During the spring and summer, Boone County is especially susceptible to heavy rains and thunderstorms. This can lead to flooding and property damage. Downed power lines and trees are also a major risk, which may lead to significant road closures.

Missouri is also at risk for tornados during this time of year. High winds can bring danger to life and property.

Finally, Boone County has experienced hail a few times over the past year. Hailstorms can present significant damage to cars, homes, and other infrastructure. This type of severe weather can also cause injuries for those who are outside during a storm.



Photo: Spring storm causes damage to Columbia power lines, resulting in power outages for thousands of residents (ABC17-KMIZ)



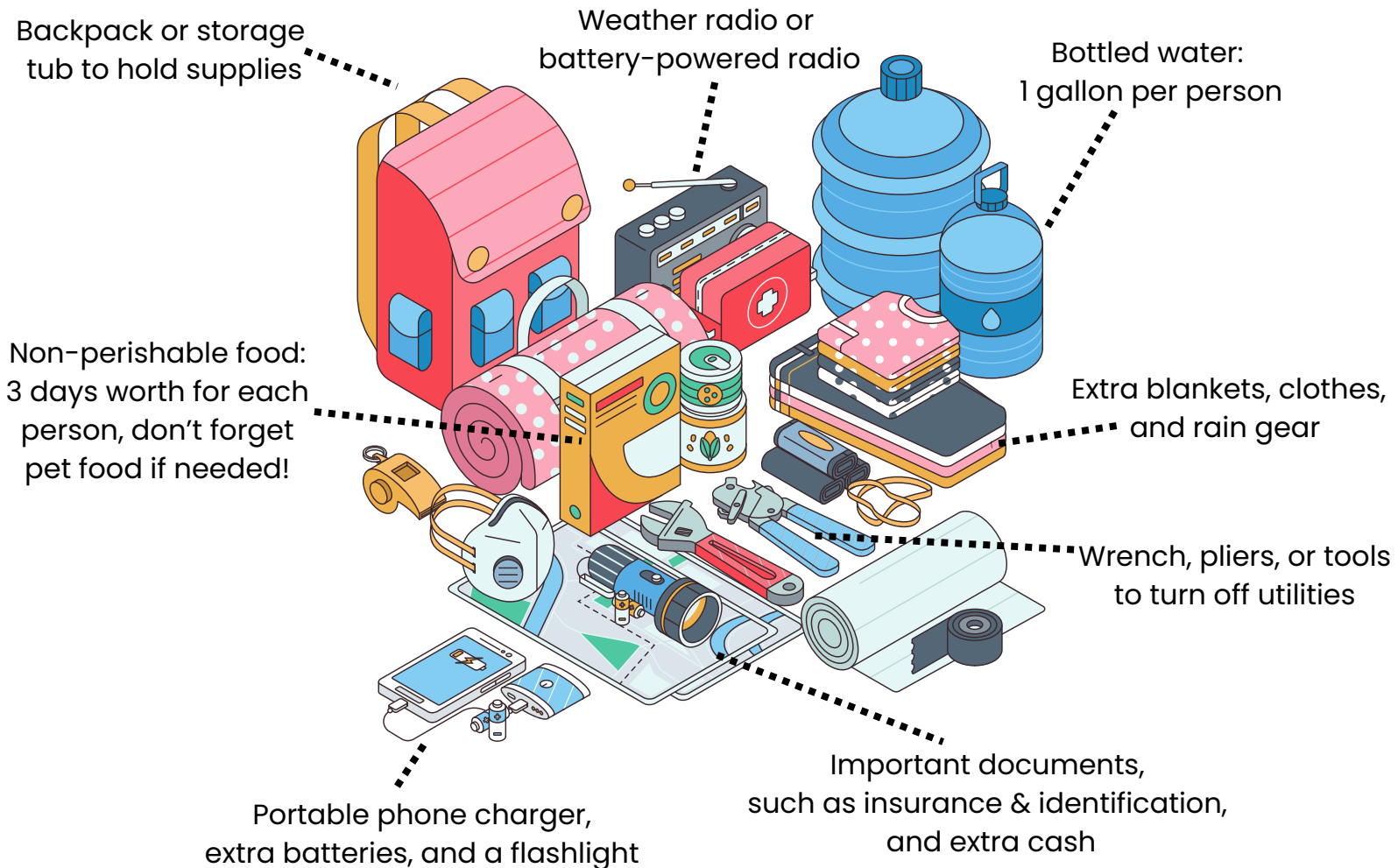
Photo: Large hail found across Missouri and Kansas on March 14th, 2024 (Associated Press)

HOW TO STAY SAFE IN SEVERE WEATHER

Severe weather might be unpredictable, but what you do in an emergency shouldn't be!

Follow the information below and you can become **Boone County Ready** for whatever weather we face this Spring and beyond.

Build your severe weather emergency kit!



Don't forget to add a first aid kit, a deck of cards or a book, and medication!

This is not an exhaustive list of what you may need. Those with young children, access needs, and pets may require additional items. For more guidance, visit <https://ready.boonemo.org/kit.asp>

Severe Weather Dos & Don'ts

DO

- ✓ Prepare emergency kits ahead of time for your work, home, and car.
- ✓ Designate your severe weather safe place.
- ✓ Sign up for Boone County Ready Alerts to receive updates from our office.
- ✓ Listen to NOAA weather radio and the local news to stay updated.
- ✓ Go indoors in severe weather! If you must stay outside, shelter in your car.
- ✓ Report any damage to trees or power lines immediately.
- ✓ Review and update emergency plans after a storm. Replenish emergency kits as well.

DON'T

- ✗ Stay outside during a storm if you have access to an indoor shelter.
- ✗ Run water or leave appliances plugged in during a storm. Electricity can travel through both!
- ✗ Forget about pets! Make sure to bring them inside. Pets often get lost in severe weather.
- ✗ Stay stagnant in your plans; you should adjust based on updates.
- ✗ Travel on flooded roads. It only takes 1 foot of water to sweep a car away!
- ✗ Go outside before the proper authorities have deemed it's safe.

BOONE COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

For the month of April, 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 Ed Stansberry.

Please introduce yourself and your organization:

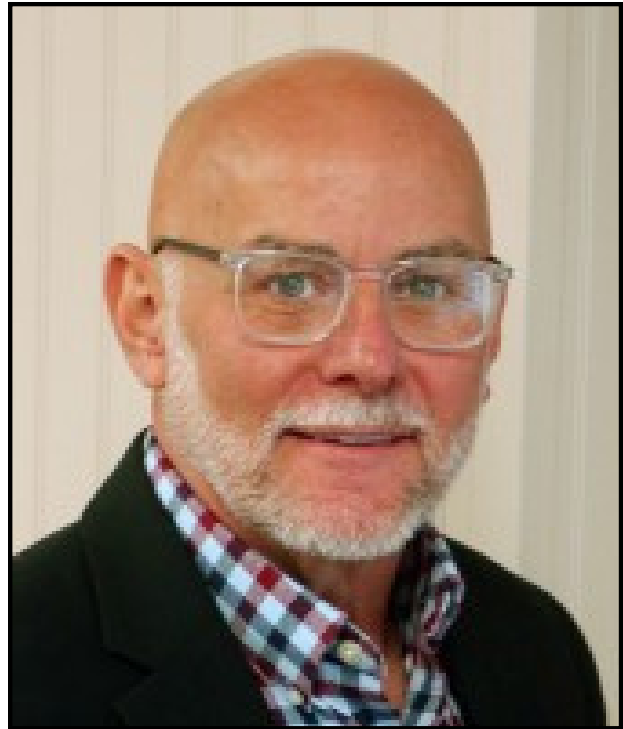
Ed Stansberry Executive Director of Voluntary Action Center (VAC). VAC is entering its 55th year of serving residents of Boone County. I am VAC's third Executive Director.

What does your organization provide?

VAC is a local nonprofit that responds to the immediate basic needs of individuals and families in Boone County. VAC provides basic needs services and seasonal programs primarily in the areas of education, employment, health and housing.

Some services and programs offered by VAC include backpacks, school supplies, work uniforms, birth certificates, photo ID's, gasoline, minor care repair, emergency food, baby formula, diapers, wipes, hygiene items, household cleaning supplies, incontinence items, prescription assistance, medical, dental and mental health copays, fans, air conditioners, rental assistance and case management.

VAC has only two requirements to receive services; you must be a resident of Boone County and have an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.



BOONE COUNTY SPOTLIGHT (CONT.)

What are some challenges you face?

The primary challenge with almost all of our services is that demand is exceeding supply. We have multiple community partners and donors that provide support for our services, but resources are limited. With demand at all-time highs for all of VAC services, it is difficult to keep up.

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

I am a big St Louis Cardinals baseball fan and Kansas City Chiefs football fan. I also enjoy Mizzou athletics. I love to hunt and fish.

What's one thing on your bucket list?

To visit every major league baseball park with my son.

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

VAC is leading the effort to create The Opportunity Campus. The Opportunity Campus will provide comprehensive services to our unhoused neighbors.

TRAINING & EXERCISE

Training and exercising plans that are in place helps build preparedness across the county. Exercises are conducted to ensure procedures and policies are up to date with the best practice. Furthermore they give our community stakeholders an opportunity practice and improve the plan that is in place.

We started the month hosting a Unified Command exercise with MU Healthcare Ambulance Service.

Later, we hosted a damage assessment exercise involving stakeholders and volunteers from across the county. These professionals went out to 3 neighborhoods to gather simulated damage information and upload it live into GIS maps.

To wrap up the month we facilitated an Active Assailant Functional Exercise with Columbia PD in which around 140 personnel participated, and a FEMA Faithful Readiness Workshop in which 60 folks participated.



Photo: Specialist Matt Brown hosting a Tabletop exercise with MU Healthcare staff.



Photo: Disaster assessment exercise participants.



Photo: Specialist Matt Brown (pictured), and Deputy Director Waller teaching a CPR class to county employees.

OUTREACH

Outreach is critical for building resilience within Boone County. Our goal is for every citizen to be prepared for hazards that can affect our community including flooding, tornadoes, and earthquakes!

In collaboration with community partners, OEM had the opportunity to give a presentation to the students at Sturgeon Elementary. Students learned the hazards we face and the steps they can take to be **Boone County Ready!** Our Youth Preparedness Program is a free service to all schools/organizations that serve grades K-12.

OEM staff also went out to the 2024 Columbia Earth Day Festival and the 2024 Showcase CoMo event at Peace Park and the Holiday Inn Executive Center - Columbia Mall respectively.



Photo: Specialist Chris Lewin (pictured), Specialist Lamack Mwamgiga, Deputy Director Waller, teaching students at Sturgeon Elementary how to prepare for emergencies.



Photo: Director Kelley and Emergency Management Intern Isabelle Christiansen speaking on the severe weather preparedness at the 2024 Columbia Area Earth Day Festival.



Photo: Specialist Chris Lewin (pictured), Specialist Lamack Mwamgiga, Specialist Matt Brown, and Deputy Director Waller. Showcasing the services OEM provides for the community.

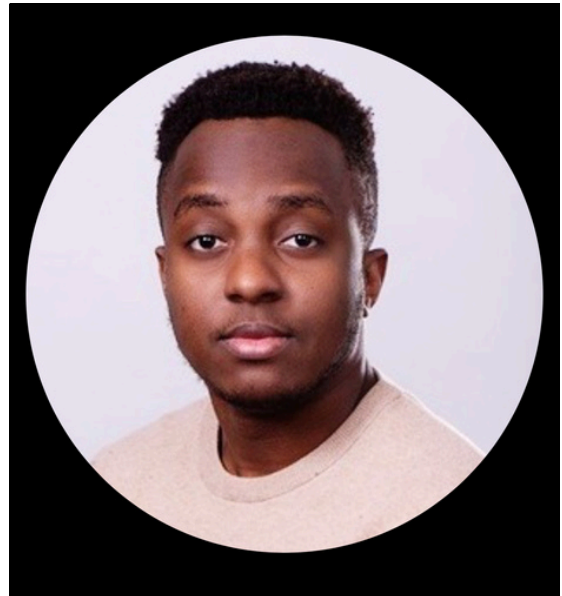
MEET LAMECK MWAMGIGA

Lameck has lived in Boone County since 2012, when he moved with his family from the “Land of Enchantment”, otherwise known as New Mexico. Working as a specialist for Boone County is Lameck’s first experience with the emergency management profession.

Since 2018, Lameck has been a student at the University of Missouri in the Department of Health Sciences and School of Medicine; he currently holds a Bachelor of Health Sciences degree from the University of Missouri with an emphasis in leadership and policy.

Lameck continues to work towards a dual master’s degree in health administration and bioinformatics. He intends to use his education as a hospital administrator, working to assure those most in need in receive the quality care they deserve.

Lameck enjoys road trips, hiking, biking, and swimming on his off days to wind down his week. His favorite activity though is learning new recipes off social media to impress his family and friends!



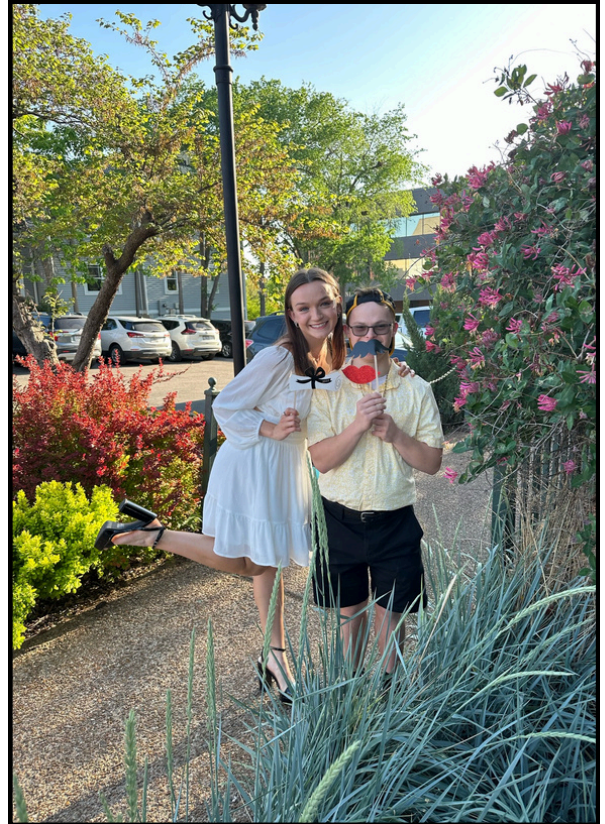
MEET ISABELLE CHRISTIANSEN

Originally from the Chicagoland area, Isabelle earned bachelor's degrees in political science and history at The University of Missouri. She decided to continue her education and is now in her final semester of Mizzou's Master of Public Affairs program with an emphasis in local government management.

Currently, Isabelle also works in the Trulaske College of Business as a teaching assistant. In this role, she manages teams of business students as they complete capstone projects with local nonprofits and businesses. She has previously worked as a city administration intern for the City of Lake Ozark where she was able to develop skills in community engagement, policy analysis, and long-term planning.

Isabelle is excited to be the first intern for BCOEM and looks forward to advancing the Boone County Disaster Recovery plan among other tasks. She is hoping to learn more about the planning process and how local organizations work together to solve problems and manage incidents.

In her free time, you might find Isabelle on the trail or track running for the Mizzou track team, in the library looking for books to reach her Goodreads goal, or at a local coffee shop spending time with friends and drinking a lavender latte!



STAFF UPDATE

Kraig Johnson, Planning & Preparedness Specialist

This month, Kraig continued updating the County's Emergency Operations Plan. He also met with Columbia Public Schools, Mizzou, and other partners for the development of their Family Reunification Plan, and attended a virtual webinar by the US Secret Service for preventing mass attacks on our community.

Matt Brown, Training & Exercise Specialist

Matt hosted and facilitated a number of exercises. He hosted a Unified Command exercise with MU Healthcare Ambulance Service, facilitated an Active Assailant Functional Exercise with Columbia PD, and facilitated a FEMA Faithful Readiness Workshop.

Chris Lewin, Mitigation & Recovery Specialist

This month, Chris traveled to Bowling Green, KY to take an EOC Operations and Planning class. This class taught him important skillsets needed to manage a large scale disaster. He also gave a Youth Preparedness presentation at Sturgeon Elementary, and began working on the County's Disaster Recovery Plan.

Lameck Mwamgiga, Emergency Management Specialist

Lamack spent the first couple weeks learning the ropes. He completed a number of FEMA Independent Study courses, assisted in the Youth Preparedness presentation at Sturgeon Elementary, and staffed our booth at the 2024 Showcase CoMo event.

Jake Waller, Deputy Director

Jake took an 8-hour course on mass care, in which he learned the processes and best-practices for sheltering during and after a disaster. He also connected with the community at our 2024 Showcase CoMo & 2024 Columbia Earth Day booths.

Bart Messer, Administrative Assistant

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

Isabelle Christiansen, Emergency Management Intern

Isabelle spent her first few weeks getting acquainted with the office and its mission. She completed her ICS certifications, connected with the community at the Columbia Area Earth Day Festival, and has been working to schedule meetings of all the Recovery Support Function (RSF) groups.

Chris Kelley, Director

Chris traveled to Bowling Green, KY to take the EOC Operations and Planning Class. He also staffed our booth in the Columbia Area Earth Day festival!

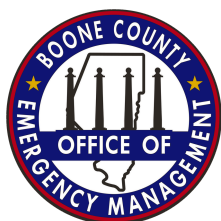
Della Luster, Administrative Coordinator

Della built active shooter kits with Bart. 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](https://www.instagram.com/BooneCountyOEM)



For weather information, monthly giveaways and preparedness tips please visit: [@boonecountyready](https://www.instagram.com/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.



(573) 554-7900



2145 E County Drive Columbia, MO 65202