



BOONE COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Annual Report

2023

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“ALONE WE CAN DO SO
LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN
DO SO MUCH.” — HELEN
KELLER

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I am very pleased to present the Boone County Emergency Management 2023 annual review. This report is one of the ways we communicate with our residents, first responder partners, and community stakeholders regarding our ongoing efforts to prepare our county for all hazards.

This year our office experienced phenomenal growth post-COVID. Some of the innovative projects and trainings of note from 2023 include:

Our office started the 2023 update to our Disaster Recovery Plan by conducting a series of informational sessions attended by Boone County stakeholders representing every facet of the recovery process. We expect to finalize this plan by the end of 2024.

Our Crisis Communications group, developed in partnership with University of Missouri System Emergency Management, is working hard to develop relationships and best practices between our local communications professionals.

Working with the Boone County Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC), our office conducted a full-scale hazardous materials exercise involving first responders from Boone, Callaway, and Cole Counties mitigating three separate hazardous materials incidents.

Our office sponsored C3 Pathways to teach reunification techniques to Boone County first responders and school officials. This training will ensure our community is better prepared to respond to and recover from a violent incident at one of our schools.

While we cannot eliminate hazards, our office will continue to work on ways to improve our ability to plan for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against the disasters that can potentially affect the residents of Boone County.

By continuing to work closely with our community, local, state, and federal partners, we will ensure our community is resilient and Boone County Ready.

Respectfully,

Christopher Kelley
Director, Boone County Office of Emergency Management

ABOUT OUR OFFICE

The mission of the Boone County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is to provide a comprehensive and integrated emergency management system that coordinates community resources to protect lives, property and the environment through mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from all natural and man-made hazards that may impact our county.

A small agency with a critical mission, OEM works with key stakeholder agencies within Boone County, along with other local, state, and federal agencies, to save lives, protect property, and safeguard the environment.

Disaster response and recovery relies on the effective coordination of planning, training, exercise, and stakeholder engagement efforts. It truly takes the whole community to recover from a disaster.

Because of this, our office would be unable to do our job without the support of our elected officials, public safety partners, community members, and other key stakeholders too numerous to name.

To all, thank you for helping foster those partnerships necessary to build resilience here in Boone County!



EXERCISE & TRAINING

The Boone County Office of Emergency Management Exercise and Training section develops and implements disaster preparedness training and exercise programs to test and support county-wide emergency plans, identifies gaps, and strives to improve community resiliency for all hazards. Some examples from this year include:

- Stop the Bleed training
- Active Assailant tabletop exercise
- CERT Basic Training
- Wide Areas Search Exercise
- Crowd Control/Traffic Management Training
- BCARES WINLINK Training
- MU Athletics Command Post Relocation Exercise
- City of Columbia PIO Exercise
- Columbia Regional Airport Tabletop Exercise
- Internal Emergency Operations Center (EOC) exercises



Photo: City of Columbia public information officers participate in a tabletop exercise testing policies and procedures.



Photo: Boone County employees all practice compressions during an American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support course held at the Emergency Communications Center (ECC).

Additionally, our office delivered American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support initial certification and course refreshers to 54 people over seven different course dates.

In March, the Boone County Office of Emergency Management and the City of Columbia sponsored a series of drills simulating an Active Assailant incident.

These drills were conducted over several days at three local high schools, and allowed personnel from law enforcement, fire department, and ambulance services to practice subduing a simulated active assailant threat, performing triage techniques, and utilizing rescue task forces for victim evacuation.

The following agencies participated in this training:

- Columbia Police Department (CPD)
- Boone County Office of Emergency Management (BCOEM)
- Boone County Joint Communications (BCJC)
- Boone Health Ambulance Service
- MU Health Care Emergency Medical Services
- MU Police Department (MUPD)
- Columbia Fire Department (CFD)
- VA Medical Center Police
- Columbia Public Schools (CPS)



Photo: Exercise controllers watch as Columbia Police and Columbia Fire Department personnel perform triage and force protection duties.

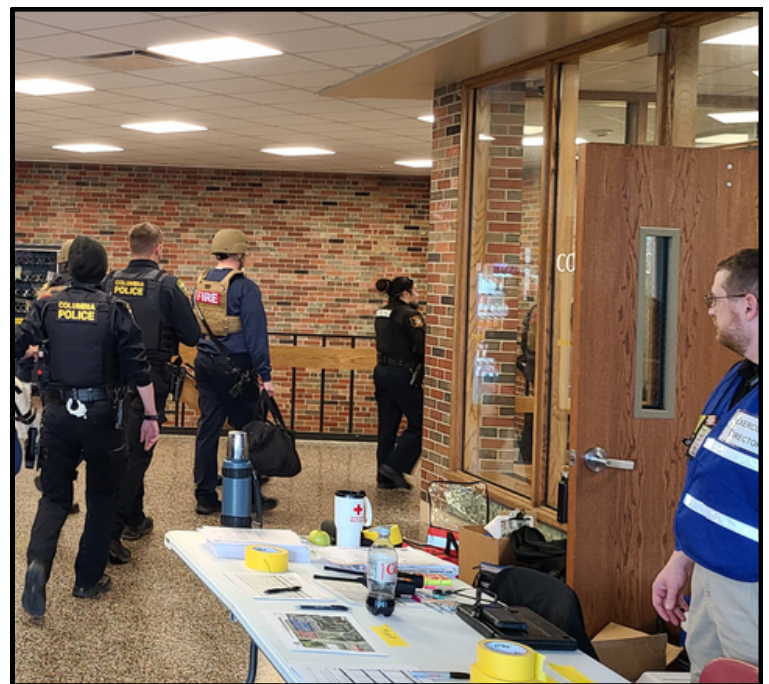


Photo: Exercise Director Matt Brown observes a Rescue Task Force (RTF) accessing the building to start patient care.

On February 15, 2023, the Boone, Callaway, and Cole County Local Emergency Planning Commissions conducted the first ever joint exercise designed to simulate three separate hazardous material incidents and test the following capabilities of first responders from Boone, Callaway, and Cole counties:

- Notification & Warning
- Communications
- Coordination & Control
- Public Safety
- Resource Management

Over 90 participants from 28 agencies participated, including:

- Boone, Callaway, and Cole County Offices of Emergency Management
- Jefferson City, Columbia, and Holts Summit Fire Department
- The Cole County Emergency Response Team
- Southern Boone County Fire Protection District
- Cole County Sheriff's Office
- MU Health Care, Boone Health, Cole County, and Callaway County ambulance services
- Jefferson City Parks and Recreation
- Red Cross of Central Missouri



Photo: Hazardous Materials technicians from Columbia Fire Department work to stop a simulated materials spill during the 2023 LEPC exercise.

SPONSORED TRAINING

SSAVEIM: School Safety and Violent Event Incident Management Course & Train-the-Trainer seminar.

Held in early October, this 16-hour course brought together 60 school, emergency management, law enforcement, fire department, and emergency medical services professionals to learn this life-saving curriculum.

Participants were trained to secure the students, identify the threat, provide medical intervention, and reunify students with their loved ones.



Photo: C3 Pathways Reunification Training hosted by Columbia Public Schools and sponsored by Boone County Emergency Management.



Photo: (L to R) Bill McFarland, Boone County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (BCARES) Emergency Coordinator, Justin Aldred, Boone County District I Commissioner, and Chris Kelley, Boone County Emergency Management Director at the 2023 ham radio Field Day.

INTEGRATED PREPAREDNESS AND PLANNING WORKSHOP (IPPW)

Boone County holds an Integrated Preparedness and Planning Workshop (IPPW) annually. The primary product of this event is the creation of a three-year training and exercise plan for local agencies to build upon. This past June, we invited all of our local partners to participate in discussion and provide input regarding their training needs.

In addition to training and exercises, the IPPW is expected to integrate other aspects into the whole community concept including risk assessments, planning efforts, grant priorities, and other preparedness activities. The goal is to document overall preparedness priorities and activities; to maximize efficiency of resources, time, and funding; and to work towards improving capability.

STAFF TRAINING

Our staff are required to attend professional training on an ongoing basis in order to increase competency in emergency management, incident command, CPR/first aid, and search and rescue. OEM staff participated in over 55 professional development courses in 2023.



Photo: C3 Pathways Active Shooter Incident Management (PER 353), sponsored by University of Missouri Emergency Management.

PER 353: Active Shooter Incident Management (ASIM)

Last Spring, 60 Boone County area first responders gathered at the 3-day Active Shooter Incident Management Advanced course, comprised of lecture and eleven full-scale exercises.

Participants were trained to integrate and manage a multi-discipline response to a full range of Active Shooter and hostile event threats, including Complex Coordinated Attack (CCA).

Some other courses attended by OEM staff in 2023 included:

- MGT 416: Continuity of Government Operations Planning for Rural Communities
- ICS 300
- ICS 400
- G 2300: Intermediate Emergency Operations Center Functions
- AHA CPR Provider
- AHA CPR Instructor
- G2302: EOC Leaders Skillset Course
- K0101: Foundations of Emergency Management
- K0102: Science of Disaster
- Master Exercise Practitioner Program (MEPP)
- WebEOC training
- Salamander platform training
- K0103: Planning: Emergency Operations
- K0105: Public Information Basics
- E0146: Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program Training Course
- MGT 414: Critical Infrastructure Resilience and Community Lifelines
- G 191: Incident Command System/Emergency Operations Center Interface
- AWR 167: Sport Event Risk Management
- K 449: Incident Command System Train-the-Trainer
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) basic

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)



Our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a community-based organization of residents who learn how to take safe emergency response actions until professional emergency responders can arrive.

The CERT basic curriculum focuses on skills such as disaster preparedness, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue for trapped survivors, incident command, and more.

Each year our office hosts CERT Basic Training in a variety of formats that are free and open to the public.

In 2023, we had 10 in-person participants, as well as twelve participants that completed the hybrid online and practical session CERT Basic training. Attendees of the training are invited to join the CERT team upon completion, but it is not a requirement.

Members of the Boone County CERT meet monthly on the second Thursday to continue developing their basic response skills and learn about new related topics. It is a great time to socialize with like-minded people passionate about disaster preparedness.



Photo: CERT members conduct a tabletop exercise during their CERT basic practical session.



Photo: CERT members practice fire suppression during a CERT basic training session.

2023 was the first full year Matt Brown, Training and Exercise Specialist, was in the role of CERT Program Manager. In that time, the CERT program expanded the way its members support both the community and our office through their volunteer service.



Photo: CERT team members practice land navigation techniques at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park.

This year, CERT supported local law enforcement with events such as the Juneteenth Parade, Fire in the Sky, and MU Homecoming Parade. They collaborated with our local American Red Cross with building our community's emergency sheltering capacity, hosted a multi-county exercise practicing land navigation and US National Grid skills, and supported the Boone County EOC during an activation in support of MU Home Games. Finally, the CERT Program Policy and Standard Operating Guidelines/Volunteer Handbook were completed and distributed to volunteers.



Photo: CERT team members staffing an informational booth at the 2023 Boone County Ready Festival.

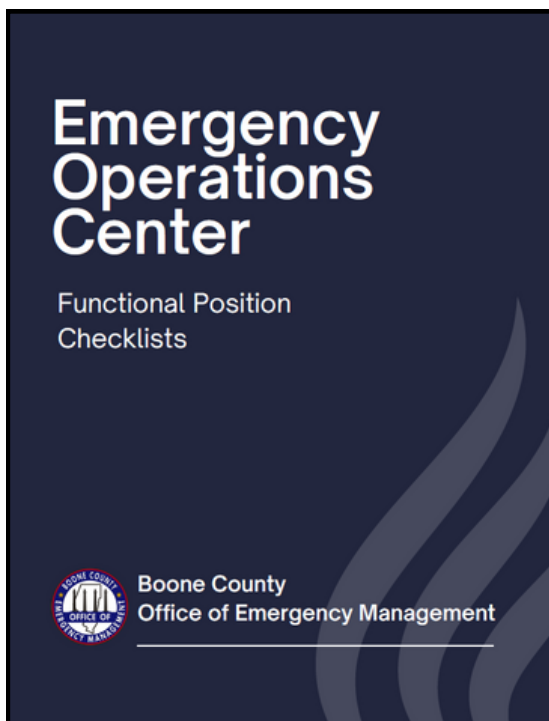
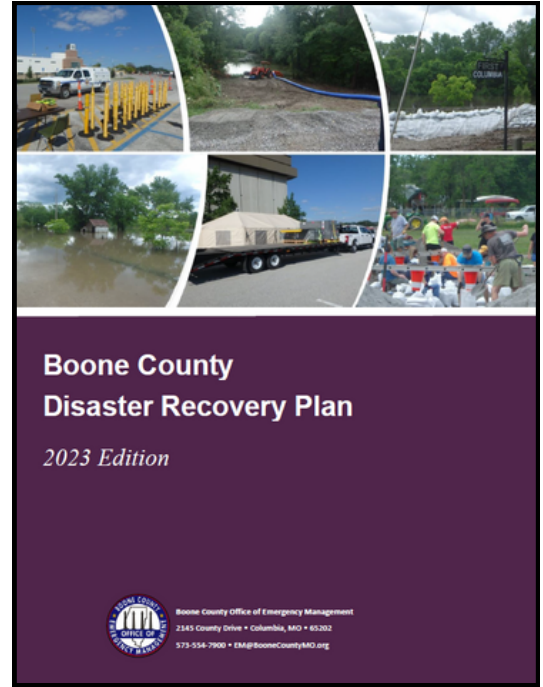
PLANNING

**“PLANS ARE NOTHING;
PLANNING IS
EVERYTHING.” —
DWIGHT D.
EISENHOWER**

Boone County must have plans in place that describe how emergency response, continuity of operations, continuity of government, hazard mitigation, and recovery from emergencies or disasters will occur.

Specific areas of responsibility need to be assigned for performing critical functions in response to disasters, and hazards that may impact Boone County must be addressed.

Plan documents are developed, evaluated, and revised on a schedule that is based on the specific requirements of that plan. Some plans require additional approvals such as local adoption or state and federal approval.



The plans evaluated and revised in 2023 include:

- The 2022-2024 Strategic Plan
- Disaster Recovery Plan
- Emergency Operations Plan
- Boone County government department-specific Continuity of Government/Operations plans
- Integrated Preparedness Plan

Additionally, in mid-2024, the County's Emergency Operations Plan will be subject to an executive review by our Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) regional coordinator.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

The mission of the Boone County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is to increase safety in the community by promoting hazardous materials awareness, supporting planning efforts, encouraging cooperative partnerships between community and industry, sponsoring hazardous materials education and training, and improving emergency preparedness for Boone County emergency responders, industry, and the community.

LEPC OFFICERS

Chairperson - Pete Martin
Vice Chairperson - Sara Martin
Secretary - Chris Pearman
Treasurer - Jenna Redel
Coordinator - Kraig Johnson

In 2023, the Boone County LEPC was the recipient of \$42,954.88 in Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) grant funding and \$12,000 in Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) grant funds.

These funds, which are collected from facilities within Boone County that submit Tier II Hazardous Materials reports, are distributed by the Missouri Emergency Response Commission (MERC) so the LEPC can carry out its mission.



Photo: Hazardous Materials technicians from Columbia Fire Department work to stop a simulated materials spill during the 2023 LEPC exercise.

RECOVERY

This year, our office kicked off the 2023 update to our Disaster Recovery Plan by conducting a series of informational sessions. Stakeholders from across our community, including our elected officials, representatives from our local municipalities, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, The Food Bank, United Way of Central Missouri, Missouri State Emergency Management Agency, Red Cross, and others, all gathered to discuss how Boone County recovers after a disaster.

Why is this important to our community?

The recovery process begins post-disaster and encompasses the critical operational and planning components that assist communities in returning to their normal state.

Often the process of recovery begins while emergency response activities are still active. Regardless of when recovery begins, it is critical that the plan exists beforehand.



Photo: Planning Specialist Hannah Wichern leads discussion about Recovery Support Functions with the Boone County Recovery Stakeholder group.

A recovery plan must address a wide range of disasters, both natural and human-caused, and provide information critical to the continuity of necessary community functions. When properly done, pre-disaster and post-disaster recovery should epitomize the concept of interagency coordination and cooperation among local, state, federal, private, and non-profit partners.

We are fortunate here in Boone County to have a dedicated group of community partners to help us with our Disaster Recovery Plan update. Without their hard work and dedication, the development of this crucial plan would be impossible.

Our office hopes to have the draft Disaster Recovery Plan ready for promulgation by December 2024.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Maintaining a robust public outreach program is critical to OEM’s mission of encouraging personal disaster preparedness. In 2023, our office performed hundreds of hours of community outreach, both through the staffing of outreach events and through the Boone County Ready campaign.

The Boone County Ready campaign focused on promoting emergency preparedness topics, including:

- Severe Weather
- Be Pet Ready
- Beat the Heat
- Cybersecurity
- Youth Preparedness Program

To reach our audience we use many different mediums, such as print ads, social media, digital displays, streaming audio, and traditional radio.

Over the past year our reach has grown exponentially, increasing our ability to disseminate preparedness resources and to notify our community of inclement weather.

Streaming Audio

627,749 impressions

Digital Display

- 1,591,942 impressions
- 2,274 clicks

Social Media

Total

- 1,154,919 impressions
- 12,221 clicks
- 1,028 post reactions
- 69 post comments
- 96 post saves
- 320 post shares



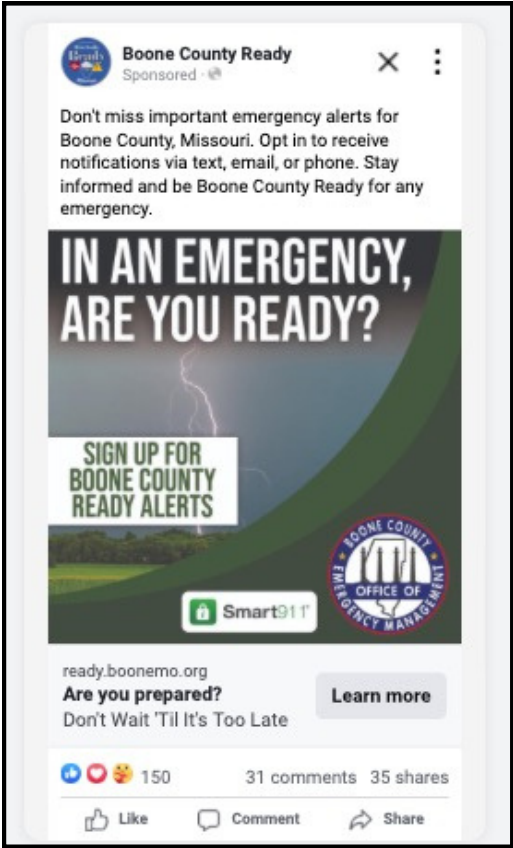
6,900+ followers
450 new in 2023
1.1 million impressions



9,000+ impressions



+88 followers
42 mentions



Zimmer Weather Sponsorships

- 5 stations
- 17-10 second reads per date
- 935 total reads across all stations

In 2023, our office staffed 25 in-person community outreach events that reached 10,000+ people, representing almost 200 hours of employee time.

Examples of events where we staffed preparedness booths include:

- City of Columbia Juneteenth celebration
- Mid-Missouri PrideFest
- The MU Homecoming Parade
- Earth Day Festival
- Columbia Parks and Recreation Family Fun Fest
- Columbia Soap Box Derby
- Boone County Fair



Photo: (L to R) Specialist Hannah Wichern, Director Chris Kelley, and Specialist Matt Brown after a presentation to the Columbia-Boonslick Kiwanis Club.

In addition, our office gave preparedness presentations to such groups as:

- The Columbia-Boonslick Kiwanis Club
- Downtown Optimist Club
- Columbia College

As well as many other local schools, interest groups, and scout organizations.



Photo: OEM Specialists Matt Brown (pictured) and Kraig Johnson presenting to a local Cub Scout pack.



In November, our office was honored to receive one of five achievement awards given by the Missouri Association of Counties for our Boone County Ready community preparedness campaign.

The Boone County Ready campaign, spearheaded by Specialist Hannah Wichern, aims to enhance community preparedness, foster collaboration, and build individual and community resilience by engaging citizens in actively preparing for emergencies and disasters.

Through a combination of outreach and proactive communication, Boone County Ready has made an impact on both individuals and communities and, as an ongoing campaign, continues to increase the preparedness, resiliency, and community collaboration throughout Boone County.



Photo: (L to R) Jenna Redel, Boone County Treasurer; Justin Aldred, District I Commissioner; Chris Kelley, Director of BCOEM; Stephanie Morrell, Division 11 Associate Circuit Judge for 13th Circuit Court; Kip Kendrick, Presiding Commissioner; Janet Thompson, District II Commissioner; and Roger Johnson, Boone County Prosecutor.

2023 BOONE COUNTY READY FESTIVAL

2023 was the third year Boone County Emergency Management held the Boone County Ready Festival. Held this year at Stephen’s Lake Park in Columbia, this event was attended by hundreds of Boone County residents interested in learning more about local preparedness resources.

Participants were able to eat great food by vendors such as Just Jeff’s and Pizza Tree, listen to Missouri’s Most Wanted outlaw band, and visit informational booths by such diverse agencies as MU Health Care’s Trauma Services, the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency flood management division, the Boone County Fire District, Ameren, FEMA Region 7, MU Parent Link, Columbia Police Department, and the American Red Cross.

We hope to make the 2024 Boone County Ready Festival twice as big, so make sure to save the date on your calendar: Thursday, September 12, 2024 from 4 pm to 8 pm.



Photo: Participants enjoyed diverse preparedness resources at the 2023 Boone County Ready Festival.





EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER ACTIVATIONS

One of OEM's primary responsibilities is activating and managing the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during pre-planned events, incidents, emergencies, and disasters. During these activations, OEM gathers and disseminates information to our valued first responders, city and county departments, and external agencies.



Photo: University of Missouri fans rush the field following the Tigers' 30-27 win over No. 15 Kansas State.

Due to the high volume of people at Faurot Field during University of Missouri home football games, we activated our EOC for all seven games.

Representatives from the following agencies joined OEM staff in monitoring game day operations:

- Boone County Sheriff's Office
- Boone Health Ambulance Service
- Columbia Fire Department
- Missouri State Highway Patrol
- MU Health Care Emergency Medical Services
- University of Missouri Police Department
- University of Missouri Athletics Department
- University of Missouri Facilities Management
- University of Missouri System Emergency Management

During the last game of the season, an exercise was conducted simulating a medical emergency in the Faurot Field command post that caused operations to shift to our back-up command post.

All operations were able to be safely and efficiently managed from our EOC without any disruption in service.



Photo: Representatives from MU Health Care and the Missouri State Highway Patrol direct game day operations during the Florida Gators vs Missouri Tigers football game played on November 19, 2023.

Providing warnings and information to the public is an important emergency management function. Many times last year during periods of inclement weather, our office activated to a Level 4 activation (OEM staff monitoring only) to watch the weather and monitor 911 traffic. This type of lower level EOC activation helps us to monitor for life threats and hazards, track damage reports, and share information with our local and state partners.

If dangerous weather is forecasted, our office will escalate to one of our higher levels of EOC activation:

- Level 3 - a partial activation of the EOC involving OEM staff and limited community partners.
- Level 2 - a full activation with OEM staff and participation from a wide number of community partners.
- Level 1 - a full activation with community stakeholders and state and/or federal participation.



Photo: Storm damage photo taken by BCOEM staff.



Photo: Storm damage photo taken by BCOEM staff.



Photo: Storm damage photo taken by BCOEM staff.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT

The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) from the Department of Homeland Security provides state, local, tribal, and territorial emergency management agencies with the resources required for implementation of the National Preparedness System and works toward the goal of a more secure and resilient nation.

EMPG funding supports our office's efforts to build and sustain core capabilities across the prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery mission areas.

In 2023, our office was awarded \$113,300 in EMPG funding, which supported warning siren maintenance and half of three full-time positions (Director, Deputy Director, and Administrative Coordinator).

CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

"Communication is not about speaking what we think. Communication is about ensuring others hear what we mean." — Simon Sinek

In cooperation with University of Missouri System Emergency Management, our office spearheaded the creation of a Crisis Communications Group made up of local public information officers (PIOs).

This group works to build relationships and share knowledge about best practices, because it is critical to have those peer relationships established before a crisis occurs.

In October, we sponsored an all-day workshop for the Crisis Communications group with presentations and discussion on the role of the Public Information Officer, as well as case studies about local communication successes.

OUTDOOR WARNING SIREN EXPANSION

In 2023, our office added ten new outdoor warning sirens to our system. The new sites are located here:

- O'Rear Rd near Lisa Dr
- Easley River Rd south of Coopers Landing
- South Palis Nichols and Liberty Ln
- Baldrige Av near Hardwick Ln
- 6201 South Gans Creek Rd
- 6401 South Sinclair Rd
- 5801 S. Route K
- Cresskill Dr and South High Point Ln
- 3615 Southland Dr
- South Howard Orchard Rd and Sedgewick Dr

This brings the total number of sirens to 103, which allows our office to cover the majority of the county.





OFFICE STAFF

Emergency Management Director:
Christopher Kelley

Deputy Director:
Jake Waller

Administrative Assistant:
Bart Messer

Administrative Coordinator:
Della Luster

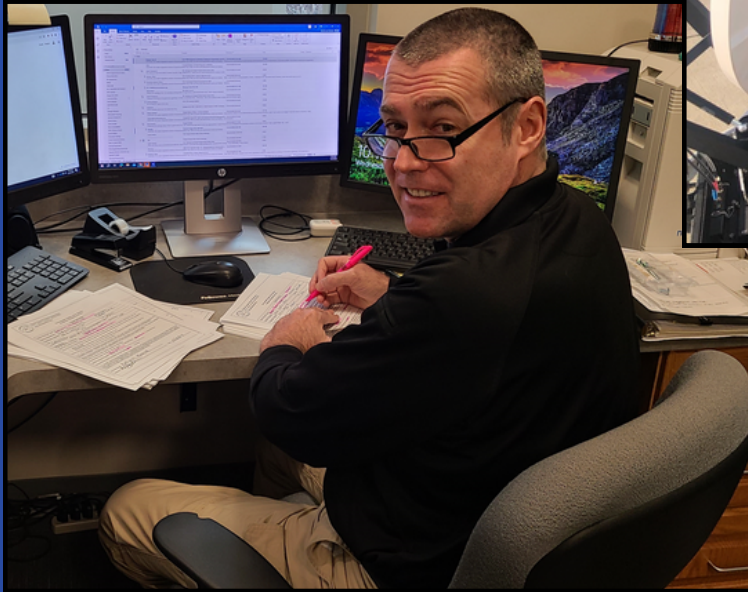
Planning Specialist - Mitigation and Recovery:
Hannah Wichern

Planning Specialist - Preparedness:
Kraig Johnson

Training and Exercise Specialist:
Matthew Brown



Photo: (L to R) Kraig Johnson, Matt Brown, Della Luster, Jake Waller, Bart Messer, and Chris Kelley.



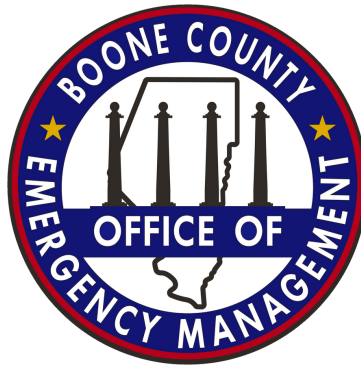
COMING IN 2024

Some of the projects and initiatives we have planned for 2024 include:

- In early 2024, we will be posting our first internship position! This position will provide real-world experience in emergency management to qualified students eighteen years or older.
- Creation of a Watch Officer program. This additional staff responsibility will help our office maintain 24/7 coverage in assisting with information sharing, situational awareness, resource provision, and inter-agency collaboration.
- Starting the EMAP accreditation process. The Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) is the gold standard of emergency management programs nationwide and will test our office's ability to perform prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities for all hazards.
- As we continue to improve operations in our Emergency Operations Center (EOC), our next project is building position task books for the EOC. The task books will identify the competencies, behaviors, and tasks that personnel should demonstrate to become qualified for a defined incident management and support position in our EOC.
- This year we will be updating our multi-year strategic plan for the 2025 - 2027 cycle. This will involve reviewing our mission and vision statements, conducting an updated SWOT analysis, and evaluating our strategic goals. We hope to have the process completed by December 2024.
- In Spring of 2024, our office will begin holding public informational sessions to discuss the addition of ten more warning sirens to our outdoor warning system.

"Growth comes at the point of resistance. We learn by pushing ourselves and finding what really lies at the outer reaches of our abilities." — Josh Waitzkin

STAY CONNECTED



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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