

OEM CHRONICLE

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

Boone County—are YOU ready?

Boone County Ready—Bringing preparedness to the people.

We continue to staff an outreach table the second Friday of each month from 9am – 2pm in Columbia Mall in an effort to connect with citizens, actively engage them in preparedness and increase citizen knowledge of the Boone County Ready mission and our [website](#). These tools are 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.

Text **READY** to **67283** to opt-in
for Non-Emergency Preparedness Messaging

Happening soon...

August 3rd, 12pm, [Outdoor Warning Siren Test](#)

August 6th, COMO Heat Campaign Day

August 11th, 6:30pm—8pm, [CERT Meeting](#) at the Emergency Communications Center

August 12th, 9am—2pm, [Boone County Ready Community Outreach Event](#) at [Columbia Mall](#)

August 17th, 6pm—8pm, [Family Fun Fest](#) at [Albert Oakland Park](#)

Looking ahead...

September 1st, 4pm—8pm, [2nd Annual Boone County Ready Festival](#), [Albert Oakland Park](#)

September 7th, 12pm, [Outdoor Warning Siren Test](#)

September 8th, 6:30pm—8pm, [CERT Meeting](#) at the Emergency Communications Center

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

September 13th, 8am—5pm, [Faithful Readiness Workshop](#)

September 21st, 6pm—8pm, [Family Fun Fest](#) at [Albert Oakland Park](#)

September 23rd, 9am—2pm, [Youth Preparedness Day](#), [Sturgeon School District](#)

Resource Highlight: PulsePoint

Building Informed Communities

PulsePoint is an app that connects citizens with lifesaving information that is already available in the community. This app allows the community to share where AEDs are located so if someone calls 9-1-1 for a heart emergency, using PulsePoint dispatchers can guide the caller to nearby AEDs if available. In addition, app users who are CPR certified will be alerted. Anyone with the app can be alerted to all Fire and EMS calls at the same time dispatch receives them.



Youth Preparedness

In light of August being Youth Preparedness Month, the OEM has partnered with Columbia Parks and Recreation to sponsor the August Family Fun Fest. The theme is Be Prepared! The event targets families with children. Participating vendors will engage with kids in completing a preparedness or safety themed activity.

No matter your age, every member of the household can prepare for disasters and emergencies! We have a guide to [Age-Appropriate Preparedness Activities for Kids](#) that provides activities for households to do together to ensure children of all ages are educated on safety and preparedness for emergencies. Kids should be included in the household's [planning process](#) and participate in practicing it as well. If old enough, kids should have their own emergency kit. This is something adults can assist children in putting together using our [emergency kit checklist](#). Children can learn more about disasters and preparedness through interactive games available on [Ready Kids](#).

Preparedness is not just for individuals and households—it should be discussed in school and faith settings as well! Reach out to our office for ideas on how you can educate youth on preparedness and safety at your establishment. If interested, we can even come to you to provide a presentation tailored to different age groups. Contact us today for more information.

Do It 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.

August Goal:

[Make your community stronger by getting trained and getting involved.](#)

Suggested Activities:

1. [Become CPR or First Aid Certified](#)
2. [Register AEDs in your community on the PulsePoint app](#)
3. [Enroll in Community Emergency Response Training](#)
4. [Volunteer in your community](#)

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Partner Spotlight

The OEM is sponsoring the August Family Fun Fest; the theme is Be Prepared! This is the perfect fit because August is Youth Preparedness Month and the Do1Thing goal is Get Involved. So we are doing both!

One of our partners who will be joining us at the August Family Fun Fest is the Boone County Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT. CERT is a volunteer program that educates citizens on disaster preparedness and basic response skills.

Since 2005, 130 people have been trained in the program. Prior to OEM Sponsorship beginning in 2017, there were two teams in the county—one under Columbia Fire Department (CFD) and one under Boone County Fire Protection District (BCFPD).

Currently, Boone County CERT has 20 active members. In 2021, CERT Team Members completed 450 volunteer hours. Activities included supporting the Pet Preparedness Outreach Initiative, promoting vaccination clinics, and serving as ushers for the funeral of Chief Bryant Gladney.

CERT education is intended to lessen the impact of disaster on participating individuals and enable them to aid family members, neighbors or coworkers immediately following an emergency until responders arrive.

Awareness level CERT volunteers take the Basic Training course and are not held to any annual participation requirements. CERT Team Members actively participate in the program by attending monthly trainings, outreach events, volunteering, assisting during disasters and continuing emergency response training and education.

Learn more about CERT [here](#) or contact Elizabeth Thompson at ethompson@boonecountymo.org for information.

Emergency Communications Center Career Exploration Program

The Boone County Office of Emergency Management (BCOEM) and Boone County Joint Communications (BCJC) have partnered together to launch the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) Career Exploration Program (CEP) for high school students.

The purpose of the program is to bring attention to lesser-known facets of emergency response such as emergency management, emergency telecommunications and radio maintenance and operations.

The CEP is a competitive 12-week program. Upon successful completion of the program, students will have a fully stocked emergency kit and have completed FEMA's Professional Development Series (PDS) through the Emergency Management Institute (EMI).

The first semester of the CEP will begin Fall of 2022. Applications are only being accepted from the Columbia Independent Schools (CIS) at this time. Only one CIS student will be chosen to participate for Fall 22.

Applications are being accepted from August 1st—August 30th. Interested CIS students can reach out to their counselor for an application packet.

We hope to expand the CEP after this initial semester to allow for all Boone County high school students to apply for the program.

Are we there yet?

The back-to-school countdown has begun! While you're out picking up your kiddos school supplies, swing by Family Dollar or Dollar Tree and grab a few items for their emergency kit as well. Flashlight, first aid kit, multitool and batteries are just a few of the items you can find there for your or your kiddos emergency kits. Plus, you can follow Boone County Ready on socials for a chance to win emergency supplies each month! Follow me for more Frugal Mom Tips.

BCOEM and BCJC saw a **TON** of local county and out-of-county residents throughout the week at the Boone County Fair! We talked to roughly **600** people and handed out over **1,700** freebies and preparedness materials. Make sure to visit our booth this month at Columbia Mall and Family Fun Fest if you missed out last month.

Great News! If you haven't heard—[988 is an official quick dial number for Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#). [If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis](#), call or text 988. I am working on updating our Quick Dial Brochure and will have it added and ready for distribution this month.

Parts of the U.S Virgin Islands received an [Emergency Declaration on July 25th](#) due to [water shortages and health impacts](#) related to an [unprecedented influx in sargassum seagrass](#).

WHO declared [Monkeypox a global health emergency](#) with [the intention to prompt countries' government leaders to invest in prevention](#).

There's a bunch of discussion on whether [climate change should be considered a national emergency](#). While other countries are [setting aside green aspirations](#) due to [energy supply shortages](#) following [sanctions on Russia](#). That's all I got for this month. Remember to send me your content feedback! Shoot me an email and let me know what you want to see in the next issue.

Hannah

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