

OEM CHRONICLE

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

See Yourself in Cyber

While cybersecurity seems like a complex subject, it's really about people. No matter what role you play, individual, consumer, employee, you can take basic steps to protect your online information and privacy.

There are 4 things that everyone can do to become more secure in the cyber world.

1. Enable multi-factor authentication
2. Use strong passwords
3. Recognize & report phishing
4. Update your software

Learn more about the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and cybersecurity awareness at www.cisa.gov

Happening soon...

October 5th, 12pm, [Outdoor Warning Siren Test](#)

October 6th, 3:30pm—5pm, Columbia Parkinson's Support Group

October 13th, 6:30pm—8pm, [CERT Meeting](#) at the Emergency Communications Center

October 8th—9th: [Hartsburg Pumpkin Fest](#)

October 15th, 1pm -5pm, [Yappy Hour in Twin Lakes Recreation Area](#)

October 22nd: [MU Homecoming Parade](#)

Looking ahead...

November 2nd, 12pm, [Outdoor Warning Siren Test](#)

November 10th, 6:30pm—8pm, [CERT Meeting](#) at the Emergency Communications Center

Resource Highlight: What3Words

What3words is the simplest way to talk about location. Street addresses aren't accurate enough to specify precise locations within the address, such as building entrances, and addresses often don't exist for parks and many rural areas. This makes it hard to find places and prevents people from being able to accurately describe where they are and where to send help during an emergency.

What3words is a free app available to anyone. The app has divided the entire world into 3 meter squares and given each square a unique combination of three words. It is the easiest way to find and share exact locations.



Smoke Detectors & Fire Prevention Week

Three out of five home fire deaths are a result of not having a working smoke alarm. The risk of dying in a home fire drops by half when you have a working smoke alarm!



Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home and both inside and outside sleeping areas. You should test your alarms monthly and change the batteries as needed. In addition, it's critical to have a fire escape plan in which you have identified 2 ways to exit the home in the event of a fire. Practice the plan with your household regularly. Lastly, if your home is on fire:

Get out, stay out & call 911!

TRICK OR TREAT?

Halloween is my second favorite holiday. Dressing up, getting blisters from walking farther than you wanted, the uncertainty of whether it will rain on you, your kids getting candy that you will inevitably pick through and secretly keep for yourself, the scary movies, and decorations. Good stuff. On the down side, this also means there are hoards of people out in the neighborhoods walking around and not always paying attention to traffic. [Follow these three tips, and you can leave the tricks and keep the treats this Halloween.](#)



1. Stay alert and aware while walking
2. Spruce up your costume with a few safety measures
3. Drive slower and be more alert

Do1Thing

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.

October Goal:

Be able to safely meet your basic needs during a power outage.

Suggested Activities:

1. Have one flashlight for each household member.
2. Have extra batteries for flashlights.
3. Ensure your Boone County Ready power bank is charged and in your emergency kit.

OEM CHRONICLE

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

Partner Spotlight

This month's partner has a stormy job that is critical to our community's health, preparedness and resilience. Boone County Stormwater Management is a small office with a big role. If you're not familiar, stormwater is water from precipitation (rain, snow melt, run off). Stormwater drains into natural &/ human-created systems. We call these drains, ditches, and sewers. Our stormwater in Boone County is discharged directly to our streams and rivers.

Naturally, two problems arise from stormwater. Either we have too much of it (flooding) or not enough (drought). It's critical to our community's resilience, preparedness and health, that we find ways to mitigate the devastating effects of flooding while simultaneously collecting and purifying excess water to utilize in areas experiencing insufficient availability of drinking water.

Stormwater Management can not control agricultural practices in Boone County but they can work to educate and empower local farmers to make better, more informed choices. In addition, the department helps to educate all citizens on local watersheds, composting, pet waste disposal, gardening, native plants, steams, pollution, and more!

They are also responsible for aspects of land development, protecting environmentally sensitive areas, issuing County permits and coordinating inspections.

Last, but not least, they also have their own newsletter, [the Stormy Day Review](#), that you can subscribe to by emailing stormwater@boonecountymo.org.

To learn more about Boone County Stormwater Management, [check out their website](#).

Storm Water Woes No More

Fall is upon us. Leaves will begin changing colors, making a beautifully scenic display of warm, autumn colors before falling off to the ground and inevitably being blown from the yard into the street. Often times, many lawn care providers, homeowners, landlords, and tenants, may blow their grass clippings into the street as well. Out of the yard, into the street and then one day it's just gone. "Problem solved!"

When in fact, it's 'problem created'. You see, blowing yard debris (leaves, grass clippings, trash, sticks, etc.) into the streets leads to all those things being carried to the nearby storm drain. This causes a mat of debris over the drains that essentially prevents water from going into the drains. Sometimes debris even ends up inside the stormwater pipes which as you can image leads to even bigger, more complex, issues. Believe it or not, yard debris that is not properly disposed of and is allowed to run into stormwater systems is a big contributor to localized flooding in Boone County, and many cities throughout Missouri.

So what can you do to help prevent localized flooding in your community or subdivision? Great question! There are many things that we can do in our communities to be part of the solution and not contribute to the problem.

First off, find your local storm drain and check on it every now and then to make sure it is clear of debris. Whatever you do, DO NOT push debris down into the drain. That debris will end up clogging the stormwater pipes and will actually increase the likelihood of flooding. You can also use those fallen leaves to mulch your yard which is super beneficial and healthy for your soil. More leaves than yard? No worries, throw them in the composter or drop them off at a local compost site free of charge. If you hire a company to take care of your yard, just chat with them to see what they do with the clippings/leaves. If they do not have a plan for them, suggest one! You're paying for their services and have a voice in their disposal practices as well.

Last, and certainly not least, share this knowledge with your neighbors, friends and family. We can work together to prevent localized flooding by ensuring our stormwater systems are functioning to the best of their ability!

Hey Ghoul Friends

I am curious—what's your favorite activity or event to attend in October? I personally LOVE pumpkin patches! If you have a favorite, please share it with me. Also, send me your favorite October activities and I will enter you into our October Monthly Giveaway. We had a SPOOK-tastic turnout for the 2nd Annual Boone County Ready Festival last month. Thank you to everyone who stopped by, participated and/or sponsored the event.

In other news, [Hurricane Ian left a path of destruction in Florida and the Carolinas](#). Mexico experienced another deadly magnitude [6.8 earthquake hours after finishing their earthquake exercise](#) on September 19th, the anniversary of two other deadly earthquakes. [Alaska was pummeled by a historic storm](#), the remnants of Typhoon Merbok.

Our office is still looking for a Planning & Preparedness Specialist, [check out the job listing if interested](#).

Lastly, have you created your [Boone County Ready Safety Profile](#) yet?

.Hannah

Phone: 573-554-7912

E-mail: HWichern@boonecountymo.org