

OEM CHRONICLE

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

Resolve to be Boone County Ready

Start your new year off right, make a new year resolution to be more prepared. Complete the 4 steps to preparedness this year so you can protect what you love. Boone County Ready has the tools you need to become prepared for any emergency and disaster. Don't try doing everything at once, focus on one thing each month using our Do1Thing corner. Visit ready.boonemo.org to learn more about preparing today.



GET YOUR YEAR OFF TO A GOOD START: PROTECT WHAT YOU LOVE

Holiday Fires No More

You are probably not surprised to know that home fires increase during winter months. Holidays such as Christmas and New Year's create an increased risk due to the decorations that households use during December and January. It's easy to get caught up in the festivities and not to put safety first, however, it's important this holiday season that we all take the necessary steps to ensure our holiday treats do not go up in smoke due to a preventable accident.

If you are getting a real Christmas tree this year, make sure to keep it away from heat sources and water it daily. If you are a candle lover like myself, make sure that you blow those candles out before going to bed or leaving the house and keep them out of the reach of pets, children and flammable surfaces. Another alternative could be using a candle warmer instead of lighting the candles.

For more information on [preventing home fires this winter and holiday season](http://showmeboone.com/OEM), visit showmeboone.com/OEM

Happening soon...

December 1st, 10:15am, Missouri Parks & Recreation Association Disaster Preparedness Community Presentation, Columbia Activity & Recreation Center (ARC)

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

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

December 12th, Youth Preparedness presentation at Blue Ridge Elementary

Looking ahead...

January 2nd, New Year's Holiday, Office Closed

January 4th, 12pm, [Outdoor Warning Siren Test](#)

January 6th, Youth Preparedness presentation at Columbia Independent Schools

January 6th, Preparedness Presentation to Columbia Chamber of Commerce

January 12th, 6:30pm—8pm, [CERT Stop the Bleed Training Meeting](#) at the Emergency Communications Center

January 16th, Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Office Closed

Do 1 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.

December Goal:

[Be prepared to give first aid while waiting for an ambulance.](#)

Suggested Activities:

1. [Make a first aid kit for your home and car.](#)
2. [Take training in first aid, CPR, or AED.](#)

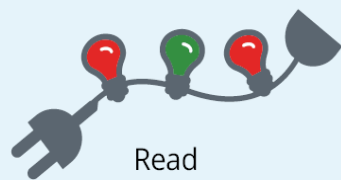


Put a FREEZE on Winter Holiday Fires

Did you know?

More than **1 in every 5** Christmas tree fires were caused by a heat source too close to the tree.

As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.



Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.



Make sure your tree is **at least 3 feet** away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators and space heaters.



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Partner Spotlight

When winter weather comes in, we know there will be traffic delays. We are encouraged to take safety measures to ensure that we get to our destinations safely. This month's spotlight recognizes our partners in public works departments throughout Boone County for their efforts to keep our roads safe for driving throughout the winter season.

Boone County is made up of over 800 miles of county-maintained roads! Our local public works departments include Boone County Road and Bridge, as well as city operated departments in Columbia, Ashland, Hallsville and Centralia. When winter weather is on the way in, our public works departments start planning, prestaging equipment and staffing their crews in preparation.

For a major winter event, all employees will be scheduled to work 12-hour shifts around the clock. Without their efforts, many of us wouldn't be able to fulfill our everyday responsibilities.

Streets are prioritized by traffic volume to create a network of streets that connect neighborhoods to and from major roads, hospitals, schools, fire stations and commercial areas. It's important to note, that public works does prioritize routes for first responders to ensure their safety and ability to respond to emergencies.

To report an emergency, call 911.

To learn more about snow routes in Boone County, visit showmeboone.com/road-bridge.

For the City of Columbia Snow and Ice Management website visit comsnow.com

Ready or Not, Here Comes Winter

As temperatures begin to drop, consider getting your home ready by completing these end-of-the-season tasks to winterize your home and protect your property.

1. Check the gutters—prevent ice dams by cleaning your gutters out before winter and make sure your attic floor is properly insulated.
2. Protect the pipes—protect against frozen pipes by insulating those that could be susceptible to freezing.
3. Seal cracks—use draft guards or caulk holes and openings around windows, doors, air conditioners and mail chutes to prevent cold air from seeping in.
4. Prevent slips, trips and falls—keep your driveway and sidewalk clear of ice and snow. Repair issues with steps and handrails.
5. Keep it cozy—Thermostat should be set to at least 65 degrees throughout the winter.
6. Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors—residential fires are more common in winter, so make sure the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working. Check them monthly and replace batteries as needed.
7. Clear debris from the yard—keep trees trimmed and remove any dead branches and debris from the yard. Snow, ice and wind can weaken trees and cause branches to fall and potentially damage your home, car, or even people.
8. Put outdoor equipment away—remove all garden hoses that are attached to the house, drain them and store them for winter. Shut off the valves and insulate the faucet. Put outdoor equipment into a basement, garage or storage shed to protect from the elements.
9. Time to stock up—Make sure you have the winter staples ready including a snow shovel, ice scraper, ice melt, weather radio, emergency car kit, and flashlights with extra batteries.

Wichern Wisdom

It's that time of the year again. The time to reflect on the past year and start to think about our resolutions and goals for 2023. For me, this is a time that I can take an inventory of my life. Look back at my goals for 2022. I regularly write down my goals (personal and professional) for each year. It's something that my previous supervisor encouraged me to do and I found it to be really beneficial. When I write down my goals, they go from being abstract ideas in my head to solid ideas on paper where they can then be transformed into a plan and I am more likely to accomplish them. That doesn't mean that I accomplish everything—I'm not super woman...yet. Plus my goals may change throughout the year.

Sometimes I reach goals that I didn't intend to and sometimes I have to put a certain goal on the back burner (paying off my car). Either way, by writing down my goals I can help myself to achieve them. One of my professional goals from this past year was to complete the L105 training and I was able to take it last month in Nebraska. What were some of your goals for 2022?

What did you achieve on your list and what did you have to put off? I encourage you, if you're reading this, to write down something that you want to accomplish. Write it down and put it somewhere you will see it regularly. Okay, stepping off my soap box now.

In local news, [Crimestoppers is offering a reward for information leading to an arrest of the 'Columbia Prowler'](#).

In national news, a [Dallas air show ended with a fatal collision of two warplanes](#) last month and local [hospitals are seeing an increase in pediatric respiratory illness](#). [Texas drought conditions continue](#). Three Native tribes, two in Alaska and one in Washington state, will receive [funding to move away from coastal areas and rivers](#). In global news, several earthquakes hit [Cianjur](#), [Canada](#), [New Delhi](#), [Nepal](#), [Indonesia](#), and [Greece](#) to name a few. The [Atlantic hurricane season](#) generated 3 hurricanes in November alone and [Hawaii's Mauna Loa erupted](#) for the first time in 40 years.

We are still seeking feedback on our newsletter, please complete our survey, <https://surveyMonkey.com/r/2022ChronicleFeedback>, by the end of December. You can reply anonymously OR you can leave your contact information and be entered into the December monthly giveaway! (P.S. County employees **ARE** eligible!)

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