



OEM CHRONICLE

Boone County
Office of Emergency Management



NOVEMBER

WINTER WEATHER SAFETY

As temperatures drop and snowflakes start to fall, now is the perfect time to prepare for winter weather. Stock up on essentials like warm clothing, blankets, non-perishable food, and water. Check your emergency kit to ensure you have flashlights, batteries, and a first aid kit. If you drive, equip your car with an ice scraper, shovel, and extra supplies in case of an emergency.

WINTER WEATHER SAFETY

Severe winter weather create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, carbon monoxide poisoning (from improper generator use), and heart attacks from overexertion. Winter storms including blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice and high winds. A winter storm can:

- Last a few hours or several days
- Cut off heat, power and communication services.
- Put older adults, children, sick individuals and pets at greater risks

Know Your Terminology

There are several terms used to describe forecasted severe weather, and while they may seem similar, they have important distinctions that can affect how you should respond. Understanding these differences is key to staying safe and prepared.

Winter Storm Advisory

This notice is issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and sleet which will cause significant inconvenience

Winter Storm Watch

This notice alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet. These watches are generally issued 12 to 48 hours before a storm.

Winter Storm Warning

This notice is issued when hazardous winter weather is imminent or occurring. These alerts are usually issued 12 to 24 hours before a storm. If a warning is issued, take protective action.



WINTER WEATHER SAFETY

How to Stay Informed

Staying informed helps you make better decisions and stay prepared for severe weather. Here are a few tips to keep you in the loop:

Sign up for Smart 911 Alerts: You can create a safety profile and register for emergency notifications on Smart911. Any Watch, Warning, or Advisory issued will be pushed straight to your preferred notification methods (email, text, or voice).

Follow your Local Weather Forecast: Visit the [National Weather Service](#) site for updated information for Boone County. You can also tune into your local weather forecast to stay weather aware.

Learn Basic Care and Prevention for Winter Related Illness: 63% of temperature-related deaths are attributable to cold exposure. This includes illnesses such as hypothermia and frostbite. Visit the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) to learn how to prevent and care for cold-weather related illness.



Protect exposed skin from the cold. If you notice redness, numbness, or pain, move indoors immediately to warm up.

WINTER WEATHER SAFETY

How to Prepare

At Home

- **Stock Essentials:** Build an emergency kit for your home that includes a 3 day supply of food and water, a backup battery, a first aid kit, and other essentials. Visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) to learn more.
- **Prepare Heating Systems:** Ensure your equipment is properly maintained, and keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from all heat sources.
- **Prepare for Power Outages:** Keep refrigerators and freezers closed. If use a generator, use it outdoors and away from windows

For Your Vehicle

- **Build an Emergency Kit:** Include items like blankets snacks, water, an ice scraper, and a phone charger
- **Drive Safely:** Avoid unnecessary travel during severe weather.
- **Know your Route:** Inform yourself on road closures and road conditions. You can view current road closures on [Boone County's Webpage](#). You can also view road conditions on the Missouri Department of Transportation's [Traveler Information Map](#).



BOONE COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Every month, we like to spotlight one of our local partners who work hard to make Boone County an amazing place to live, work, and recreate in. This month we'd like to recognize Camaron Nielsen!

Please introduce yourself and your organization:

My name is Camaron Nielsen (she/her) and I am the Board President of The Center Project.

What does your organization provide?

We are the local LGBTQIA+ resource center providing a variety of social support groups, community events and resources to the LGBTQIA community in Mid-Missouri.

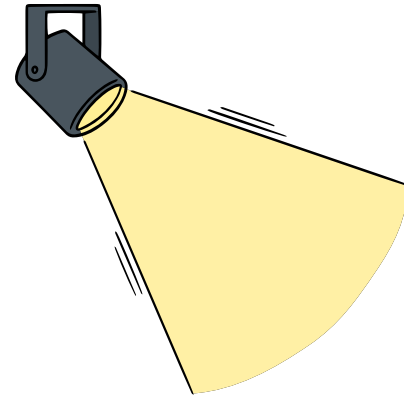


Prism, our youth group serving LGBTQIA+ and ally youth ages 11-18, meets for a variety of fun activities. Additionally we offer Parents4Parents, a supportive social group for parents and adult family members of LGBTQIA+ youth. The group meets to not only support each other but to learn together how to best support and advocate for their kids.

Gender Blender is a supportive social group for Trans and Nonbinary adults and offers a safe space and community support. Some of our newer groups include LO60, a group for older queer women and a caregiver support group. We also hold a variety of open hours style events for the entire community including a monthly game night, craft night and brunch event (Coffee with Queers).

In addition to our many programs, we offer vital resources including a basic needs pantry and emergency fund to help Queer folks in crisis situations, inclusivity trainings and a donation based library and closet.

BOONE COUNTY SPOTLIGHT



What are some challenges you face?

Changing political climate and increasing number of anti-LGBTQIA+ bills introduced annually in Missouri increases risk to our community and the need for support resources.

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

Outside of my volunteer work with The Center Project, I spend my time serving my clients in real estate, working as an election supervisor for the Boone County Clerk's office, volunteering with other incredible non-profits and spending time with my 3 incredible kids.

What's one thing on your bucket list?

For The Center Project to become an universal polling location for Boone County so that every queer person in Boone County can vote in a fully safe and affirming place.

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

We are (up until December 4th when our first paid staff member starts) an all volunteer run organization and rely heavily on community support. Donations of time, financial resources, clothing and basic needs items are vital to our continued existence.



EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER ACTIVATION - 2024 ELECTION DAY

One responsibility of our office is activating and managing the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for pre-planned events and disasters. This can range from anything like the Mizzou Homecoming Parade to severe weather that impacts our community.

The goal of an EOC is to gather and disseminate information to our first responders, county departments, and other key stakeholders. It functions as a central “hub” that partners can look to for resources, information, and support.

The EOC is typically staffed with representatives from organizations across the county. Depending on the

incident, the EOC can be staffed with partners from local government, response organizations, and community organizations.

This month, the EOC was activated for the 2024 national election to provide essential resources and support, ensuring a safe and secure election day. Representatives from more than 10 organizations came together to staff the activation, which lasted over 18 hours. This strong collaboration among partners was key to the success of the operation, showcasing the power of teamwork and preparedness!



STAFF UPDATE

Chris Kelley, Director

Chris attended the annual International Association of Emergency Managers Conference in Colorado, staffed the EOC for election day and both Mizzou home football games

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!

Chris Lewin, Mitigation & Recovery Specialist

This month, Chris continued to develop the Boone County Disaster Recovery Plan, assisting with the County's Mitigation Plan, and staffed the EOC on Election Day.

Jake Waller, Deputy Director

This month, Jake staffed the EOC during for the Election Day activation and the Mizzou football games. He participated in the MO Health Care Coalition drill, taught CPR for new 911 dispatchers, taught Stop the Bleed for Boone County employees, and developed our Continuity of Operations Plan.

Matt Brown, Training & Exercise Specialist

This month, Matt facilitated the Boone County ARES Simulated Emergency Test Exercise, staffed the EOC on election day, facilitated a tabletop exercise for local public information officers, and staffed the EOC for the Mizzou Football game.

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.

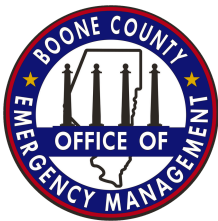
Kraig Johnson, Planning & Preparedness Specialist

This month, Kraig continued updating the County's Emergency Operations Plan, staffed the EOC for election day and the Mizzou Football games, and is supporting the development of the Integrated Preparedness Planning (IPPW) workshop

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**



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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