EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
WALTON COUNTY

2020/2021
ANNUAL REPORT

WALTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

75 SOUTH DAVIS LANE, DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, FL | (850) 892 - 8065 | WALTONCOUNTYEM.ORG

OUR MISSION

The mission of Walton County Emergency Management is to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from all hazards, emergencies, and disasters, using a whole community approach.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to continue to be a recognized leader in Emergency Management by building strategic community partnerships and effective public education.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
WALTON COUNTY

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1. *Region 1 partners attend FEPA Midyear in Crystal River, FL.*

2. *Summer CERT training class learn search and rescue techniques, such as cribbing. CERT classes are offered quarterly.*

3*. CERT volunteers lending a hand during the COVID-19 food distribution, located at the Walton County Fairgrounds.*

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4. *WCEM staff on-scene for a motor vehicle accident, involving a 100-gallon diesel spill.*

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

While 2021 was a "new" year, for many, it felt like 2020, part two! Walton County Emergency Management has remained extremely busy over the last year with the continuation of COVID-19 response operations and managing incidents, such as tropical systems and flooding. Between response and training, this past year has provided our staff with new skills and tools to help build Walton County into a more disaster-resilient community.

The pandemic not only changed our community, but has affected the way our staff operates daily. From emergency operations, such as sheltering and activations, to community engagement, including training and meetings, our staff and volunteers have adapted to the "new normal." However, many of our core processes and controls have remained the same since the inception of the pandemic.

Our team, made up of staff, partner agencies and volunteers, have continued to step up for their community and adapt to these changes, to which I am extremely appreciative and proud. The teamwork that each one of our partners has shown over the past year has been the key to the success of the Emergency Management Program in Walton County. While finding the balance can be frustrating for many, it has served as an opportunity to "improvise, adapt, and overcome" whatever challenges will come next.

Although much has changed over this last year, our department's dedication to serving YOU remains the same. Walton County Emergency Management continues to be a well-respected leader within the Emergency Management profession and embodies the five core mission areas of Emergency Management (prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery) in everything we do. Our team's dedication to professional development and collaboration among state-wide committees, working groups and task forces has allowed for a more well-rounded and diverse department. All would not be possible without the support we have received from our citizens, our partnering agencies, the Board of County Commissioners and Walton County Administration.

Thank you for your continued support over the last year!

Jeff Goldberg, FPEM, FMI, CHS III
Director, Walton County Emergency Management

OUR TEAM

WCEM STAFF

Donna Free, FPEM
Planning Coordinator
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Catie Feeney, MS
Operations Coordinator
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Justin Powell, FAEM
Logistics Coordinator
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Gene Jack
COVID-19 Specialist
(Temporary Position)
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WCEM ORGANIZATION CHART

WALTON COUNTY BCC

Trey Nick, Chairman, District 4 **Michael Barker,** Vice Chairman, District 3
William "Boots" McCormick, District 1 **Danny Glidewell,** District 2 **Tony Anderson,** District 5

OPERATIONS

NEW TO OUR TEAM

Please join us in welcoming Catie Feeney, Operations Coordinator for Walton County Emergency Management. While new to the department, Feeney has worked for Walton County for the last two years, where she served as the Tourist Development Department's Social Media Specialist.

Feeney brings a wide range of disaster response and recovery experience to her role, as she's served in multiple Walton County activations, including Mussett Bayou Wildfire, COVID-19, Hurricane Sally, and more. Additionally, Feeney served as lead Media PIO during Hurricane Michael in Bay County.

Feeney received her Bachelor's degree in Criminology and Emergency Management and her Master's degree in Corporate and Public Communications from Florida State University. In the short time she has been on our team, Feeney has completed her Advanced Professional Series certificate and plans to apply for her Florida Associate Emergency Manager (FAEM) certificate in 2022.

EOC ACTIVATIONS

It's critical for Walton County Emergency Management (WCEM) to maintain the highest level of operational readiness to respond and recover from the wide variety of hazards present In Walton County. In the past, our department has been seen as the "hurricane people," when in reality, we respond to a wide variety of natural, technical and human-caused hazards.

WCEM and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff are responsible for coordinating and monitoring operations for the reduction of the immediate hazard, saving lives and property, establishing situational control, implementation of supportive measures and the restoration of the impacted area. The coordination between WCEM and numerous county, municipal, non-governmental, and private non-profit/for-profit agencies ensure the successful implementation of these operations. This year, staff updated multiple internal documents, such as the situational report for better communication and information sharing during activations.

The Walton County EOC was activated 39 times during the 2020-2021 fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2020 – Sept. 31, 2021) for a total of 418 activation days.

Now – let's discuss the idea of an activation and the number of days associated with an incident. Traditionally, the EOC is activated for one event at a time; however, in this last year, we've activated for multiple incidents, at the same time. In addition to the 365 days of COVID-19 pandemic response, we've simultaneously activated for cold weather, multiple tropical systems, and a tornado. These concurrent activations required multiple sets of strategies, tactics, and incident documentation.

EOC ACTIVATION TIMELINE

- **October 1, 2020 – Continued activation at a Level 2 – Partial Activation to support local operations in relation to the COVID – 19 global pandemic for a total of 365 days.** From the initial day of the pandemic, March 16, 2020, until Sept 30, 2021, the Walton County EOC had been activated for a total of 564 days and we continue to be activated until further notice to support COVID operations (public information, vaccinations and testing). Although the EOC isn't staffed with our partner agencies, they are continuing to work remotely.
  - The Public Information Unit was activated consisting of the Public Information Officer, Social Media Team, the Citizen Information Center, and the Joint Information Center consisting of:
    - Walton County Public Information
    - Walton County Sheriff's Office
    - Walton County Fire Rescue
    - South Walton Fire Rescue
    - Florida Department of Health – Walton County
    - Walton County School District
    - Walton County Tax Collector
    - Walton County Clerk of Courts
    - Walton Area Chamber of Commerce
    - Tourism Development Council
    - City of DeFuniak Springs
  - All Command and General Staff positions were activated, as well as:
    - Emergency Services Branch
      - ESF4/9 – Firefighting
      - ESF8 – Health and Medical
      - ESF16 – Law Enforcement
    - Human Services Branch
      - ESF15 – Volunteers and Donations
      - ESF18 – Business and Industry
  - WCEM's support to this response consisted of:
    - Ordering, stockpiling, and distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders, healthcare facilities, and other essential workers
    - Logistics and operations support for drive through, drive up, and walk-up sample collection sites and vaccination sites operated by Florida Department of Health in Walton County and our private sector partners
    - Coordination of food distribution and unmet needs to those residents impacted by COVID though the Human Services Branch. Over 2 million pounds of food were distributed, with feeding services continuing into 2022.

1. *WCEM volunteers and staff assist in drive-thru testing sites at Gene Hurley Park.*

2. *WCEM provided staffing, equipment and coordination of COVID-19 testing sites throughout Walton County.*

3*. South Walton Fire District paramedic staff provide assistance In drive-thru testing sites.*

1. *Duty Officer, Catie Feeney assists in 100-gallon diesel spill on I-10, mile marker 100.*

2. *CERT volunteers assist in Citizen Information Center during activation.*

3. *Director, Jeff Goldberg, leads instruction in G-191, ICS/EOC Interface.*

4. *CERT Volunteer assist In COVID-19 food distribution efforts*

- **Activated to a Level 2 – Partial Activation to support cold weather shelter operations 34 times.** Those operations sheltered a total of 109 people in the DeFuniak Springs Community Center, which is operated by The Matrix Community Outreach Center.

- **October 26, 2020 - Activated to a Level 2 – Partial Activation to support possible impacts from Hurricane Zeta.**
  - All Command and General Staff positions were activated.
  - No impacts were received, or damage reported.

- **November 8, 2020 - Activated to a Level 2 – Partial Activation to support possible impacts from Tropical Storm Eta.**
  - All Command and General Staff positions were activated.
  - No impacts were received, or damage reported.

- **April 10, 2021 - Activated to a Level 2 – Partial Activation to support impacts from a tornado touchdown.**
  - All Command and General Staff positions were activated.
  - Multiple barns lost their roofs, one unoccupied home lost its roof, one unoccupied home damaged from fallen trees, and multiple trees and powerlines down throughout the area.

- **June 16, 2020 - Activated to a Level 2 – Partial Activation to support possible impacts from Potential Tropical Cyclone 3.**
  - All Command and General Staff positions were activated.
  - No impacts were received, or damage reported.

- **August 12, 2021 - Activated to a Level 2 – Partial Activation for possible impacts from Tropical Storm Fred.**
  - All Command and General Staff positions were activated.
  - The following Branches, Units, and ESFs were activated:
    - Emergency Services Branch
      - ESF3 – Public Works
      - ESF4/9 – Firefighting/Search and Rescue
      - ESF8 – Health and Medical
      - ESF16 – Law Enforcement
    - Human Services Branch
      - ESF15 – Volunteers and Donations
      - ESF18 – Business and Industry
  - No evacuation orders were issued.
  - General Population, Special Needs, and Pet Friendly Shelters at Freeport High School were on standby to open but were not opened.
  - No reported damage.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Training Program addresses the overall emergency management training needs for department staff, as well as Walton County employees and emergency management stakeholders. Fortunately, this year we were able to increase the number of trainings that were delivered while still having some of our safeguards remaining in place to prevent/limit the transmission of COVID. These safeguards include:

- Temperature checks upon entry
- Risk assessment completion
- Social distancing of participants and instructors

We provided 17 trainings to 220 participants in the following classes:

- G300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents (two offerings)
- G317 Basic Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training (four offerings)
- G400: Advanced Incident Command System Command and General Staff (four offerings)
- G428 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer (TtT) (two offerings)
- G548 Continuity of Operations (COOP) Program Manager
- G2300: Intermediate Emergency Operations Center Functions
- FL600: Public Assistance (PA) Certificate
- G205: Recovery from a Disaster: The Local Government Role
- G557: Rapid Needs Assessment

1. *Logistics Coordinator, Justin Powell, demonstrates the fire exercise to G428 CERT Train-the-Trainer class members.*

2. *FDEM representatives demonstrate the debris management process in PA 600, Public Assistance training.*

3. *CERT members dedicate their afternoon to sorting toys for Walton County children in need. This exercise prepares volunteers for donation management in a disaster.*

EXERCISE PROGRAM

The Exercise Program addresses the coordination, compliance, and corrective actions as per the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) guidelines for all exercises conducted by WCEM. Despite COVID-19 limitations, WCEM staff participated in the tracking, design, facilitation, and execution of one exercise this year.

Operation Little St. Nick: Donations Management Functional Exercise
The goal of this exercise is to test Walton County's ability to manage donation operations. The objectives were to create a process to sort donated resources to ensure incoming resource request can be fulfilled in an expedient manner, as well as to fulfill resource requests from a pre-vetted list.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SITE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The Hazardous Materials Site Assessment Program, lead by the Florida Division of Emergency Management, provides response agencies in the County and the public with updated, hazard-specific planning information and data. These assessments provide first responders with specific information designed for the management of hazardous material response.

- Visited and updated site-specific information for **17 chemical facilities** in accordance with State contract.
- Granted access for several users to E-Plan, hazardous materials facility database, and provided training.

DUTY OFFICER PROGRAM

Under the Operations Section is the Duty Officer program. The Duty Officer is a staff member of WCEM that takes a two-week rotation of being on call to answer phone calls from residents, visitors, and partner agencies as well as provide afterhours emergency response as needed.

This year, there were 119 calls to the 24-hour on call number, which is down from the previous year of 433. That is due in part to the decline in calls from the public due to COVID-19, the Mussett Bayou Wildfire, and other direct impacts from large scale disasters the previous year. While the calls were down, Duty Officer field responses were up by double from the previous year. WCEM provided support field response to 22 scenes to assist with support and coordination.

Field Responses

- One tornado touchdown
- One hazardous materials incident – Radiological agent
- One hazardous materials incident - Drum with chemicals washed up on beach
- Seven other hazardous materials incidents – various quantities of hydrocarbons
- One Mass Casualty Incident - School bus crash (minor injuries – family reunification)
- Nine motor vehicle crashes
- Two major structure fires

In addition to the above responses, WCEM provided direct phone support to on scene response personnel on 16 other occasions that did not require the Duty Officer to respond to the scene.

1. *Logistics Coordinator, Justin Powell, assists WCFR in motor vehicle accident assessment.*

2. *Duty officer responds to tractor trailer spill on HWY 2, including diesel and human waste.*

PLANNING

Typical planning activities include the preparation and update of the countywide Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), the guiding document on how Walton County prepares, protects, mitigates, responds, and recovers from all- hazards emergencies and disasters. This plan details operations procedures for the County and its jurisdictions. The planning process involves coordinating the efforts of various community stakeholders (e.g., municipal, County, tribal, State, and federal government agencies; non-profit organizations; and citizen groups) in order to develop comprehensive strategies to safeguard the lives and property of Walton County residents and businesses.

Planning Coordinator, Donna Free leads planning coordination and documentation during activation.

PLAN UPDATES

Our team is dedicated to planning for a variety of natural, technological, and human caused hazards, including terrorism. We continue to focus on the current topics in emergency management, such as developing protective actions for flooding, preparing for a pandemic, and mitigating against the consequences of future hazards. Please see below for the types of planning documents we use, as well as the plans that were created or updated this year.

- **Guiding Documents**
  - These documents are strategic style plans that provide high level guidance on a variety of topic. These plans include the CEMP, Local Mitigation Strategy, Annual Report and Strategic Plan, and the Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan.
    - ***Developed the 2020 – 2021 Annual Report and Strategic Plan***

- **Coordinating Procedures**
  - These describe the lead, support, and coordinating agencies along with their roles and responsibilities during all phases of emergency management. These procedures outline specific tasks that are standard to all County departments/divisions, municipalities, and partner agencies for any hazard. The Coordinating Procedures include job aids for each position, detailing the specific tasks they must complete during an operational period at the EOC.

- **Hazard Specific Plans**
  - Each of the HSPs serves as the basis for effective response to a specific threatening hazard and outlines the roles and responsibilities unique to that hazard.
    - ***Revised the Cold Weather Emergency Shelter Plan***

- **Incident Support Plans**
  - ISPs support the response to emergencies and disasters. They include procedures that augment the procedures outlined within HSPs and other plans. Examples of ISPs include the Mass Casualty/Mass Fatality Plan, Re-entry Plan, and the Continuity of Operations Plan.
    - ***Developed the WCEM Continuity of Operations Plan***
    - ***Developed the EOC Feeding Plan***

- **Standard Operating Guides**
  - SOGs are procedures or guidelines that are section or agency specific, and utilized by that entity to accomplish the functions, missions, or activities they are responsible for.
    - ***Developed OP-13 Mobile Vaccination Program Standard Operating Guide***
    - ***Developed OP-14 Road Closure Standard Operating Guide***
    - ***Developed PL-006 Transition to Recovery Standard Operating Guide***

- **Program Plans**
  - Program plans support the day-to-day operations and County readiness. Some of these plans include the Community Outreach Plan and the Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP).

HEALTHCARE COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (CEMP) REVIEW PROGRAM

The Health Care Facility (HCF) Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) Review Program was created by the Florida State Legislature, requiring certain health care facilities to prepare and annually update a comprehensive emergency management plan. In the event of an emergency, a CEMP provides the facility with a plan to respond to and recover from an incident, thus, returning to normal operations, as quickly as possible. Additionally, this plan will include different ways the facility is preventing, mitigating, and protecting their facility and their residents from future emergency situations. WCEM staff reviews the specifics of each plan, ensuring the plan is functional, realistic and timely.

These facilities include: Adult Day Care (ADC), Assisted Living Facilities (ALF), Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC), Hospitals, and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF).

State law requires that the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) develop and adopt minimum criteria for the CEMP as well as plans for emergency power generation. The law also requires that the CEMPs and emergency power plans be reviewed and approved by WCEM.

- **Evaluated 23 Healthcare Facility and other facility CEMP/Emergency Plans, an increase of four from last year**
  - *Assisted Living/Skilled Nursing Facilities –7 (an increase of two from last year)*
  - *Hospitals – 2*
  - *Emergency Power Plans – 9 (an increase of two from last year)*
  - *Other - 5*

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Our dedication to providing the highest level of planning and preparedness is the reason we train. Join us in congratulating our Planning Coordinator, Donna Free, on her completion of Emergency Management Institute's (EMI) Pilot E0237 - Advanced Planning Practitioner course in Fall 2021.

This week-long training will provide our department with the tools to mitigate loss and improve outcomes from hazards, threats, and risks.

Located in Emmitsburg, Maryland, EMI provides FEMA curriculum to emergency managers throughout the country.

COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP PARTICIPATION

In addition to our day-to-day job responsibilities, WCEM staff also participate in several County and statewide committees, working groups, and boards. These include:

- **Local**
  - Emerald Coast Healthcare Coalition
  - Walton County Health Improvement Program
  - Walton County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group
  - Walton County Outdoor Review Committee
  - Walton County Technical Review Committee
  - Walton County Beach Safety Committee
  - Board of Directors, Matrix Community Outreach Center
  - Local Emergency Planning Council
- **State**
  - Special Needs Shelter Registry Working Group, Department of Health
  - Domestic Security Coordinating Group Prevention, Response, and Recovery Focus Group
  - Statewide Emergency Management Directors Working Group
  - Statewide AlertFlorida Working Group
  - Statewide WebEOC Working Group
  - Statewide Evacuation Study Working Group
  - Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) Executive Committee, Secretary
  - FEPA Certification Commission
  - FEPA Training and Professional Development Committee, Lead
  - FEPA Healthcare Working Group
  - FEPA Social Media Working Group
  - Governor’s Hurricane Conference Program Executive Committee
  - Governor’s Hurricane Conference Educational Outreach Committee
  - Florida Floodplain Managers Association

MITIGATION PROGRAM

Per the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessoning the impact of disasters. In order for mitigation to be effective we need to take action now—before the next disaster—to reduce human and financial consequences later (analyzing risk, reducing risk, and insuring against risk). It is important to know that disasters can happen at any time and any place and if we are not prepared, consequences can be fatal.

The Walton County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Group and sub-committees are coordinated by WCEM. The LMS Working Group is comprised of county, municipal, private sector, and community partners, including the general public, that prepare and promote local strategies and projects to reduce long-term risks to life and property from natural, technological, and human caused disasters. The resulting pre and post disaster mitigation strategies and projects are supported by a variety of state and federal programs and funding sources, in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

Mitigation projects carried on the LMS Prioritized Project List (PPL) may be eligible for funding under a variety of programs, such as the Pre Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program, Public Assistance (PA), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The PPL is updated at least once a year in anticipation of funding opportunities.

LMS Working Group meetings serve as the primary mechanism and forum for exchanging information, planning implementation of updating the Local Mitigation Strategy, and mobilizing the vast experience and resources of the community. Public attendance and comments are welcomed and encouraged.
The Community Rating System (CRS) is sub-component of the mitigation program. CRS is a voluntary program for communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to lower flood insurance premiums by "going above and beyond" the minimum requirements for the NFIP eligibility. Program management is a joint effort between WCEM and Walton County Planning and Development Department. It is a "win-win" program because it reduces a community's vulnerability to floods while reducing the cost of flood insurance premiums for all policy holders in the jurisdiction. The CRS Program is administered by Insurance Services Office (ISO), Inc.

Under the CRS Program, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reward community actions that meet the following three goals of the CRS:

- Reduce flood damages to insurable property
- Strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP
- Encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management

The CRS has been developed to provide incentives in the form of premium discounts for communities to go beyond the minimum floodplain management requirements to develop extra measures to provide protection from flooding. **Currently, Walton County maintains a Class 6 rating. This gives residents in unincorporated Walton County a 15% discount on their flood insurance premiums.**

EVACUATION ZONE CERTIFICATION

The Walton County Planning Department is responsible for managing business and residential building and growth. Part of that is ensuring that those developers understand if they are building in an evacuation zone. WCEM provides this service to the Planning Department by certifying what evacuation zone, if any, is developed.

Last year, WCEM provided 214 evacuation zone certifications to the Planning Department to support development. This is an increase of 18 from last year.

FY 20 - 21 SNAPSHOT

1. *WCEM staff were dispatched to a turned over tanker and it's trailer, filled with solid human waste. WCEM assisted in documentation and coordination, on behalf of Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)*

2. *CERT members assist in weekly COVID-19 food distributions for the Matrix Community Outreach Center, WCEM"s Human Services branch.*

3. *Walton County Fire Rescue and Department of Health in Walton County provide testing services at the COVID-19 Point of Distribution (POD).*

4. *Justin Powell, Logistics Coordinator, provides equipment support to COVID-19 food distribution.*

5. *WCEM staff provide support and supplies for activation in South Walton.*

6*. Director, Jeff Goldberg, addresses the citizens and visitors with updates on Tropical Storm Fred via Facebook Live.*

LOGISTICS

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM PROGRAM

Volunteer Florida is the coordinating agency for the Citizen Corps program in the State of Florida, where their mission is the development of a safer, more disaster resistant community. The goal is to have a readily available pool of "professional volunteers" who know their local areas, and who can help during critical times, especially before other assistance can arrive.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a community-based organization of residents who learn how to take emergency response actions in safe ways until the professional emergency responders can respond. These citizens learn how to work in a coordinated manner caring for those injured within their community affected by a disaster.

Over the years, Walton County Emergency Management has trained over 100 CERTs throughout the County in disaster preparedness, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue for trapped survivors, incident command, disaster psychology and terrorism.

Our CERT is very active and in addition to providing staff for the Citizen Information Center during EOC activations, a few of the missions our CERT volunteers assisted with are:

- Emergency Operations Center Trailer Maintenance
- CERT Smoke Detector Battery Change Program
- Traffic Control assistance at Hammock Bay Tree Lighting, COVID Point of Distribution sites, various county groundbreaking ceremonies, DeFuniak Springs 5K, DeFuniak Springs Triathlon, and the Walton County Fair
- Equipment organization assistance
- Donation management
- Hammock Bay Parade
- Human Services Food Distribution
- Sandbag filling for Tropical Storm Fred
- Community Outreach events, including Walton County Fair and Golfing FORE Good charity event

1. *CERT members unload Christmas gifts for Community Christmas, hosted by the Matrix COC.*
2. *Chuck Schneider, CERT Volunteer and instructor, demonstrates a "head-to-toe" assessment in G428 - CERT Train-the-Trainer.*
3. *CERT members volunteer at the COVID-19 feeding distribution site.*

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VOLUNTEER HOURS COMPLETED BY WALTON CERT FY 20-21

The Administration/Finance Section addresses grants, contracts, and budget including securing the funding for critical needs of the Department's personnel and programs. This section also includes the development and execution of memoranda of understanding, interlocal agreements, and vendor contracts.

- **Memoranda of Understanding/Interlocal Agreements/Contracts**
  - Awarded a Disaster Response Services contract to DRC USA to provide debris removal, logistical support, and other services during a disaster
  - Entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Healthmark Regional Medical Center to use their clinic to administer COVID vaccinations
  - Entered Interlocal Agreements to the facilities of the following agencies for disaster logistics sites:
    - City of DeFuniak Springs
    - City of Freeport
    - City of Paxton
    - The Boys and Girls Club of the Emerald Coast
    - Everlasting Word Full Gospel Church
  - Entered an Interlocal Agreements to share fuel resources in the event of a disaster or fuel shortage:
    - City of DeFuniak Springs
    - City of Freeport
    - City of Paxton
    - South Walton Fire District
    - Walton County School District
    - Walton County Sheriff's Office (and Fire Rescue)
  - Entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Florida Division of Emergency Management to have four (4) additional WeatherSTEM weather stations installed in four (4) additional locations around Walton County
  - Entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Nokuse Plantation to install a WeatherSTEM weather station on their property

FACILITATED MEETINGS

- Four Emergency Management Partner/Local Mitigation Strategy meetings
- Four Local Mitigation Strategy revision meetings
- Three Local Mitigation Strategy public meetings
- Three wildfire specific mitigation meetings
- One Training and Exercise Planning Workshop
- One Concept and Objectives meeting
- One Initial Planning Meeting
- One Midterm Planning Meeting
- One Final Planning Meeting
- One Master Scenario Events List Planning meeting
- One initial Feeding Coordination meeting (COVID feeding)
- One Pandemic Sheltering meeting
- One Long Term Recovery Organization meeting
- One HUD Everbridge meeting

GRANTS AND FUNDING

Every year, county emergency management agencies in the State of Florida receive two grants to support efforts to build and sustain core capabilities across the Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery mission areas as described in the National Preparedness Goal (operational costs, employee salaries and benefits, communications, repair and maintenance, etc.).

The first grant is a State of Florida grant called the "Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance (EMPA)" grant. It comes from the Florida Catastrophic Trust Fund and is funded through home and business insurance surcharges. **The EMPA grant is an annual grant of $105,806.**

The second grant is a FEMA grant called the "Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)". The EMPG is an annual grant of $62,683. **The total of the two grants is $168,489.** That being said, of the Department's operating budget of $339,735, almost 50% is grant funded with **WCEM only receiving $171,246 in general revenue funding.**

WCEM continuously looks for additional grant funding opportunities to increase the number and quality of programs we deliver as well as to continually upgrade our technology and capabilities. **In addition to the yearly grant funding we receive from the State of Florida and the Federal government, we were able to secure an additional $87,186.54 in grants.** Below is the breakdown of the additional grant funding and uses:

- **$10,216.45 under an EMPG supplemental grant for support to COVID operations**

- **Allocated $56,970.09 in Federal CARES Act funding to assist with the response to COVID funding was used to purchase the following equipment**
  - Trailer mounted light tower for nighttime testing and vaccination operations
  - Four portable radios on the State Law Enforcement Radio System to increase and expand communications interoperability
  - Two mobile radios on the State Law Enforcement Radio System to increase and expand communications interoperability
  - Multiple large, heavy duty tents for testing and vaccination operations

- **$15,500 grant from Volunteer Florida to improve our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.** This funding was used to purchase training materials to train CERT members to respond to emergencies and disasters as well as to send six of our CERT volunteers to the Florida CERT Association Conference

- **$5,000 grant from Volunteer Florida to improve our Citizen Corps program.** This funding was used to purchase radio equipment for our Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) volunteers so that they are able to respond to emergencies and disasters to provide emergency communications

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) ENHANCEMENTS

- **WeatherStem**
  - Under the Florida Severe Weather Network, Walton County received four additional WeatherSTEM weather stations to assist with real time weather monitoring. With the addition of those four units, Walton County now has a total of 15 units. The additional units are located at:

    - **Red Bay - Walton County Fire Rescue Station 8**
      7900 State Highway 81 South Ponce De Leon, FL 32455
    - **Nokuse Plantation**
      13292 County Highway 3280 Bruce, FL 32455
    - **DeFuniak Springs North - Walton County Public Works District 2 Road Maintenance**
      3479 Brown Road DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433
    - **Glendale Park**
      147 Railroad Avenue DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433

  - You can access the data from all our weather stations at http://walton.weatherstem.com.

- **Purchased a subscription to WebEOC**
  - WebEOC is a web based incident and event management system that provides a central location for situation awareness during an incident. If an incident occurs that effects or might affect Walton County, such as a hurricane or severe flooding, WebEOC will be used to help coordinate a fast and effective response and recovery.

  - WebEOC will be used to track the incident, request and manage resources, document damages, and be used in the recovery process, as well as with Federal disaster reimbursement. This system can also be used during non-emergencies to help coordinate and track special events, road closures, and many other uses.

1. *One of the 15 WeatherStem systems, located over the Choctawhathatchee Bay.*

2. *View from WeatherStem website, available to the public with daily reports.*

3. *Sample "dashboard" within the Web EOC platform*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Operations Coordinator, Catie Feeney, meets with community partners to share preparedness Information.

Community outreach is the practice of conducting local public awareness activities in the community. Walton County Emergency Management has a robust community outreach program through the use of their website, social media, presentations by WCEM staff, and numerous other activities.We still relied heavily on Facebook Live and Zoom events. Some of the public outreach events are described below:

- Nine in-person community outreach events reaching over 1500 people
- Guest lectured for the Florida State University Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program called "What to Expect in the Emergency Management Profession"
- Hosted the Walton Area Chamber of Commerce "First Friday Breakfast" with a presentation how to properly donate after a disaster from Christy Rojas, Deputy Director of Emergency Management from Volunteer Florida
- Presented a "Lunch and Learn" zoom workshop for the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) titled "Are You FEPA Certified? If Not, Why Not?" about Emergency Management Professional Certification

ALERT AND NOTIFICATION PROGRAM

Walton County Emergency Management maintains a very robust alert and notification system. We use a multi-prong approach to this employing social media, press releases, and Everbridge/AlertWalton (www.AlertWalton.org).

We currently have 10,727 web-based subscribers to AlertWalton (down 1,573 from last year) and 37,681 phone contacts in the database (decrease of 49,886 users from last year). The dramatic decrease in users was due to the one-time purchase of cell phone data from the Florida Division of Emergency Management to support COVID-19 public information. Additionally, we saw a significant decrease in internal notifications entering the second year of the pandemic. The breakdown of notifications numbers are as follows:

- **Everbridge internal notifications**
  - 177 Notifications (decrease of 373 from last year)
- **AlertWalton public notifications**
  - 154 Notifications (decrease of 64 from last year)
- **Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) notifications**
  - 8 IPAWS Notifications (WEA, EAS, and Weather Radio – (down 2 from last year)
  - 64,827 AlertWalton contacts

SOCIAL MEDIA

Walton County Emergency Management has two social media platforms, Twitter and Facebook. Please see below for data collected from each platform, ranging from October 1, 2020 through September 31, 2021.

Facebook Post Statistics

- **Total Facebook Followers:** 39,370
- **Total Posts:** 374
- **Total Post Reach:** 1,251,539
  - *Post reach is defined as the number of people who say your post at least once. Reach is not impressions, which may include multiple views of your post by the same person(s).*
- **Total Post Likes / Reactions:** 76,233
  - *Post reactions is defined as the number of reactions to each post. Different reactions include: like, love, haha, wow, sad, or angry.*
- **Total Post Link Clinks:** 96,574
  - *Post link clicks are the number of links within the post that lead to destinations or experiences, on or off Facebook.*
- **Total Post Comments:** 10,599
- **Total Post Shares:** 4,484
- **Total Page Reach:** 552,689
  - *Total page reach is the number of people who saw your content from your page or about your page, including posts, stories, ads, social information from people who interact with your page or more. Total page reach differs from "Total Post Reach," because it includes data beyond organic WCEM posts.*

Twitter Statistics:

- **Total Tweets**: 58
- **Total Tweet Mentions:** 682
- **Total Profile Visits**: 7,357
- **Total Tweet Impressions:** 65,416
  - *Impressions is defined as the number of times an individual has seen a tweet or viewed your page.*
- **Total Followers:** 3,865

3,865
TWITTER FOLLOWERS

39,370
FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

OUR YEAR: AT A GLANCE

22
FIELD RESPONSES

34
COLD WEATHER EMERGENCY SHELTER ACTIVATIONS

418
DAYS ACTIVATED (AND COUNTING!) FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

220
TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

39
ACTIVATIONS FROM OCT. 2020 - SEPT. 2021

17
OFFERED TRAININGS

119
DUTY OFFICER PHONE CALLS