

# FY 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



## WALTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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## OUR MISSION

Driven by *integrity, service, and accountability*, we collaborate with community partners, residents, and visitors to prevent harm, prepare wisely, respond effectively, and recover stronger.



## OUR VISION

Our vision is to empower everyone to build a safer, smarter, and stronger community—before, during, and after emergencies.

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Fall CERT training exercise with EM Intern, Christa Radka



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# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

## TO OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS,

As we close another year in Walton County, I'm grateful to share that our community has once again remained unscathed by major disasters. While 2025 brought its share of gray skies across the region, the lessons learned from the 2024 hurricane season and the privilege of supporting our neighboring counties through their response and recovery, have made our team stronger, wiser, and even more prepared for what lies ahead.

These experiences have also motivated us to reflect deeply on who we are as a department and what we strive to accomplish for our community. Together, our team updated our mission and vision statements (see on Page 1) to reinforce and strengthen community collaboration, empower preparedness, and ensure Walton County grows safer, smarter, and more resilient before, during, and after every emergency.

This renewed perspective guided many of the initiatives we launched this year. One of the highlights was elevating community preparedness through innovative outreach efforts. Our inaugural *Build-a-Bucket* event embodied our mission to prepare wisely, reaching more than 2,500 Walton County residents through the support of over 20 community partners. This initiative equipped families with tools and education of preparedness, and furthered our vision of to empower our residents' personal responsibility in future disasters. (Read more on Page 13.)

Our *HERricane Florida | Landfall: Walton County* program also continued to flourish, marking its fourth year of inspiring young women to explore careers in emergency management and public safety. Over 50 women from 26 partnering agencies invested their time in the next generation of Walton County leaders; strengthening our community's ability to recover stronger and ensuring that the values of integrity, service, and accountability remain central to future decision-makers. (Read more on Page 10.)

This year, we also advanced our mission through critical improvements to our Emergency Operations Center. By investing in new technology and expanding training opportunities for our activation staff and regional partners, we enhanced our ability to respond effectively during emergencies of any scale. These investments reflect our vision to build a smarter, more capable emergency management system; one that serves the county today while preparing for the challenges of tomorrow.

As we turn the page toward a new year, we remain committed to innovation, collaboration, and service. Thank you to our partners, volunteers, and residents who play a vital role in making Walton County stronger every day. Guided by our mission and vision, we look forward to a productive and meaningful year ahead as we continue preparing for the challenges we may face and the opportunities we will create, together.

Warm Regards,



**JEFF GOLDBERG, CPM, FPEM, FMI, ICT3**  
Director, Walton County Emergency Management

# MEET OUR TEAM



**JEFF GOLDBERG, FPEM, FMI, ICT3**  
Director



**DONNA FREE, FPEM, FMI, PSC3**  
Deputy Director



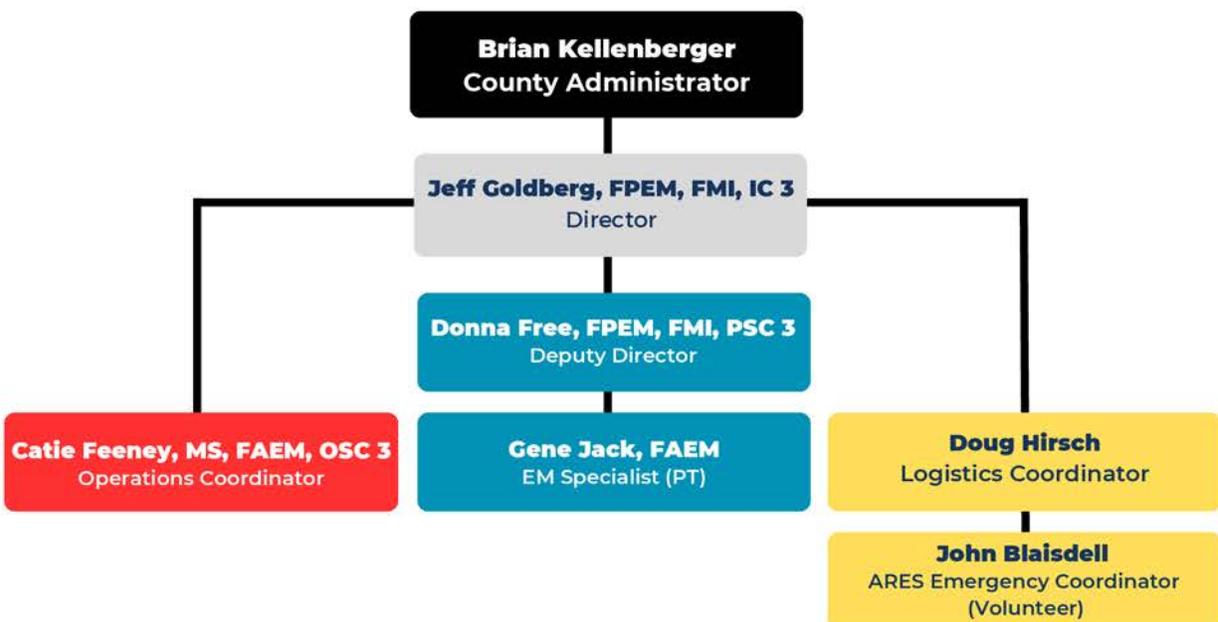
**CATIE FEENEY, MS, FAEM, OSC3**  
Operations Coordinator



**DOUG HIRSCH**  
Logistics Coordinator



**GENE JACK, FAEM**  
EM Specialist



# OPERATIONS



Alys Beach Access following snow storm

## 24-25 ACTIVATIONS

### EMERGENCY COLD WEATHER SHELTERING

October 2024 - February 2025 | Level 2 Activation

- 36 in-person sheltering evenings at DeFuniak Springs Community Center, Freeport Community Center, and Walton County Extension Office.
- Matrix C.O.C served 60 clients over a five-month period through cold weather assistance.

### MARCH SEVERE WEATHER

March 15, 2025 | Level 2 Activation

- Walton County was under a Moderate Risk (4 of 5) for severe weather.
- National Weather Service (NWS) Tallahassee confirmed an EF 1 Tornado traveled from McKinnon Bridge Road across Highway 280 East, causing downed trees and power lines.
- Partners at the Florida Baptist Association cleared 16 mature trees from a resident's property.



FBA volunteer clearing property following March tornadoes

### JANUARY WINTER WEATHER

January 21 - 22, 2025 | Level 2 Activation

- A historic snowstorm transformed the northern Gulf Coast into a winter wonderland on January 21, 2025.
- This snowstorm shattered longstanding snowfall records across the region, including the nearly 130-year-old snowfall records that were set during the February Snowstorm of 1895.
- Eight inches of snow was recorded in Paxton, with six inches recorded at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).



Frozen fountain at DFS Lakeyard



WCSO deputy at FL / AL border in Paxton, FL



WCEM staff enjoying the snow during EOC activation



WCEM vehicles following snow storm at EOC

## SWFD'S DAN CORCORAN FUNERAL PROCESSION

March 13, 2025 | Level 2 Activation

- WCEM staff assisted South Walton Fire District (SWFD) with procession operations and public information for Firefighter/Paramedic Dan Corcoran's funeral.
- Dan served two terms as union Vice President and was instrumental in getting the Firefighter Occupational Cancer Bill passed. In March of 2025, Corcoran woefully succumbed to his Stage 4 Occupational Cancer battle.



WCSO deputies paying tribute to their fellow deputy. End of Watch: April 2, 2025



Fort Walton Beach Fire leading funeral procession



Drone operations conducted by FHP and OCSO



Media procession coordination with WJHG

## WCSO'S DEPUTY WILLIAM MAY FUNERAL PROCESSION

April 12, 2025 | Level 2 Activation

- Deputy Sheriff Will May was killed in the line of duty following a disturbance in DeFuniak Springs on April 2, 2025.
- WCEM staff assisted Walton County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) with procession planning, operations, and public information for Deputy May's service on April 12, 2025.
- CERT volunteers and WCEM staff assisted with graveside parking operations.
- Deputy May's funeral procession stretched 18 miles long, with nearly 150 participating agencies.



SWFD's tower trucks paying tribute to their fallen brother



Service at Good News Church

# DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS

*Our team is committed to building a more disaster-resilient community through strong partnerships, proactive planning, and public education ensuring residents are informed, prepared, and resilient before, during, and after disasters.*



Hazardous material spill on I-10

## **DUTY OFFICER PROGRAM**

WCEM staff members participate in a two-week rotation to provide after-hours emergency response, as needed. This year, there were 75 calls to the 24-hour on call number, with field response provided to 24 scenes for supplies and coordination. Field responses included a tornado touchdown, chemical spills on I-10, pipe bomb detection, and wildfire requiring drone assistance.

## **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SITE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

The Hazardous Materials Site Assessment Program, led by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), provides first responders and the public with facility information that house hazardous materials. Our team inspected and reported on 31 chemical facilities, in accordance with State contract.

## **LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY (LMS) PLAN**

WCEM's Deputy Director, Donna Free and the Walton County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Group successfully completed the rewrite of the LMS Plan, which has been approved by the FDEM. This plan serves as the blueprint for hazard mitigation activities within each county, and is required for eligibility for certain types of federal and state mitigation funding, and identifies critical mitigation projects for Walton County.

## **EVACUATION ZONE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

WCEM helps manage and plan for the growth of commercial and residential building by assisting the Planning Department in evacuation zone certifications. This data is used to assist with evacuation clearance time and traffic impact studies. Last year, WCEM provided 177 evacuation zone certifications to the Planning Department to support development.

## **HEALTHCARE COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (CEMP) REVIEW PROGRAM**

State law requires that the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) develop and adopt minimum criteria for certain healthcare agency CEMPs, 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 for compliance. This year, our team reviewed 29 healthcare CEMPs.



Volunteers and staff participating in Liberty Volunteer Fire District's Summer Splash event.

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

The WCEM CERT program is a community-based organization comprised of civic-minded residents who learn how to safely take emergency response actions until professional responders arrive. The curriculum of the CERT course focuses on skills such as disaster preparedness, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, the incident command system (ICS) structure, disaster psychology, and more. The CERT members meet monthly, where they host a variety of trainings to expand their preparedness knowledge.

Walton County CERT is heavily involved within our community by participating in dozens of community outreach events, providing services to non-profit organizations, and supporting the EOC in both blue and gray skies. **In 2025, our CERT volunteers donated 4,523 hours of community service, attended 22 events, and provided \$149,259 of in-kind contribution.**



Volunteer Meghan at Bulldozer-Bucket event in Freeport, FL



Volunteer Yardley graduating from the FEPA EM Academy



Penny receiving CERT Phoenix Award



Volunteers hugging at CERT Appreciation Event



Students participating in CERT exercise



*HERRicane camper and Junior Lifeguard, Frankie tries on SWFD firefighter gear during Fire Safety demonstration.*



Campers enjoying the SWFD Beach Safety demonstration at Ed Walline Beach Access in Santa Rosa Beach, FL

## 2025 HERRICANE FLORIDA | LANDFALL: WALTON COUNTY

Walton County Emergency Management, in partnership with South Walton Fire District (SWFD) hosted the 2025 HERRricane Girls Summer Camp, an empowering weeklong program designed to equip young women with the confidence, skills, and leadership needed to thrive in any situation.

This year's camp brought together 27 mentors and 24 presenters representing 26 partnering agencies, providing participants with hands-on experiences in public safety, emergency management, and community leadership. Through interactive training, teamwork, and mentorship, participants learned to overcome challenges, lead with purpose, and recognize their potential as future change makers.

HERRricane continues to serve as a catalyst for confidence, connection, and empowerment—reminding every participant that they are not only prepared to weather the storm, but to be a powerful force for change. We are ready to host our next round of campers in summer of 2026!



Campers receive behind-the-scenes tour of Walton County Air Rescue helicopter with flight nurse Alley Pitts, RN



Tour of SWFD Emergency Communications Center (Dispatch)



Fire Safety Demonstration with SWFD Firefighter



Fingerprinting activity with DeFuniak Springs PD Officer Cook



Campers practice self defense techniques with FDLE Special Agent Chase and WCSO Captain Wheatley

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**SERVING WITH PURPOSE, LEADING BY EXAMPLE.**

*Community involvement is the key to building trust with residents and visitors. We value building relationships with our community and its partners, while providing valuable preparedness information.*



CERT volunteers tabling at WCCSO's Splash Bash event

Community outreach is the practice of engaging Walton County residents through public awareness activities that promote preparedness and resilience. WCEM carries out this mission through its outreach program, which includes the use of our website, social media platforms, staff and CERT volunteer presentations, and participation in a variety of local events.

**In 2025, WCEM attended 22 in-person community outreach events, reaching more than 25,000 residents.** These events featured preparedness booths at the Walton County Fair, CHELCO Safety Day, the Walton County Bicentennial Celebration, and LakeFest, among others.

WCEM staff also delivered several targeted presentations to strengthen community preparedness. Audiences included Caring and Sharing of South Walton (client preparedness), Silver Sands and Grand Boulevard tenants, the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) International group, the Democratic Women's Club, the Walton Area Chamber of Commerce's Preparedness Breakfast, and attendees at two Preparedness Town Hall meetings held in DeFuniak Springs and Freeport.

In August, US Senators, Ashley Moody and Jimmy Patronis hosted a peak hurricane season press conference, located at the Walton County Courthouse. In partnership with our state leadership, the Walton County Sheriff's Office, and WCEM, topics included the importance of hurricane preparedness and the realities of recovery from a disaster.

Team members Catie Feeney and Jeff Goldberg represented WCEM at major professional conferences throughout the year. At the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) Annual Meeting in January, they presented on *Agricultural Impacts from Hurricanes Idalia and Helene, One Second After: Practical Applications for Emergency Management*, and facilitated the *2024 Hurricane Season Discussion and Debris Operations Panel* alongside FDEM Director Kevin Guthrie. In May, they presented at the Governor's Hurricane Conference on *Establishing a Successful Community Organization Active in Disaster (COAD), The ABCs of Debris Management*, and *Hurricane Response for Fiscally Constrained Counties*.



*HERricane Florida | Landfall; Walton County Kickoff with Commissioner, Donna Johns at SWFD Headquarters*



*C. Feeney presenting at FEPA Annual Meeting on agricultural Impacts in Suwannee County*



*J. Gollberg presenting at peak hurricane season press conference with Congresswoman Moody*



*Volunteers at Walton County's Bicentennial outreach event*



*Preparedness presentation with Grand Boulevard tenants*



*G. Jack assisting resident with preparedness material*



*Food distribution with Matrix, C.O.C at WC Fairgrounds*



*CERT volunteers Crystal and Jeremy assisting with parking at SWFD Open House in Miramar Beach, FL*



# BUILD -A- BUCKET



## 2025 INAUGURAL BUILD-A-BUCKET EVENT

In September 2025, WCEM hosted its inaugural Build a Bucket Event in honor of National Preparedness Month. The free, family-friendly event welcomed over 50 partners and vendors and more than 2,500 residents who came together to build disaster preparedness buckets and learn valuable emergency readiness skills.

The event featured a wide range of activities, including building personalized disaster kits, a touch-a-truck experience, live fire extinguisher demonstrations, raffles, live music, food trucks, and activities for all ages. A Stop the Bleed training session was also offered for participants ages 16 and older, with registration capped at 30 attendees.

The Build a Bucket event emphasized the importance of personal preparedness and provided an opportunity for residents to connect with local businesses, first responders, and community partners who support Walton County before, during, and after disasters.

WCEM Logistics Coordinator, Doug Hirsch and Skillbridge employee, Thomas Dobbs, played a critical role in this event's success. We look forward to hosting this event again in 2026!



Live music provided by Hammock Bay



Child enjoying face-painting booth and vendors



Residents (and puppies) enjoying coffee vendor



Matrix COC staff providing outreach materials



Aerial view of Build-A-Bucket event, located in Hammock Bay in Freeport, FL



Salvation Army providing snow cones



CHELO's Tina Rushing providing bucket items



Chris Smith of Panhandle Weather MCing event



Residents gathering supplies for buckets



WCFF participating in Touch-A-Truck portion of Build-A-Bucket event in Freeport, FL

## SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

WCEM maintains and manages four social media platforms— Facebook, X (Twitter), LinkedIn, and Instagram— to notify and engage the public during both blue skies and gray skies. Our newest platforms, Instagram and LinkedIn, continue to show strong growth, and overall analytics reflect steady increases in followers, likes, engagement, and total page reach across all channels.



## ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The key to connecting with our community is a strong alert and notification system. WCEM uses a multi-pronged approach that includes social media, press releases, and the Everbridge® /AlertWalton system. During blue-sky days, this system supports routine community updates; during gray-sky events, it becomes a critical tool for delivering life-saving information such as safety guidance, Point of Distribution (POD) locations, sheltering options, and more.

Partner agencies—including the Walton County Sheriff's Office, Walton County School District, South Walton Mosquito Control District, and our municipal partners—also rely on this platform to communicate with their residents and employees.

Since the program's inception, usage has steadily increased each year. This fiscal year, the system recorded a total contact path count of 126,308 with 24,912 unique opt-ins. A total of 250 notifications were sent through the platform over the past year.



# TRAINING

In Walton County, we understand the importance of providing year-round training to emergency management professionals and community stakeholders. As a central hub for the region, our department is committed to hosting diverse and specialized training opportunities for partner agencies in the Florida Panhandle.

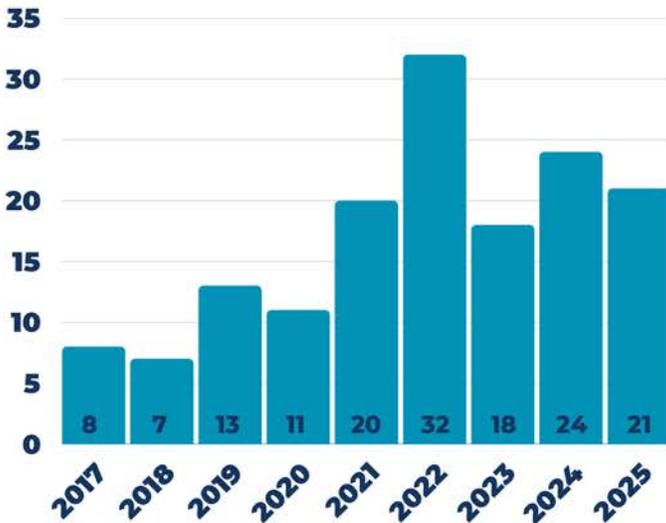
This year, WCEM successfully hosted 21 trainings, ranging from FEMA courses to Walton County-specific offerings such as Crisis Track and EOC 101. We are proud to have trained 289 individuals who are now better prepared for disasters—including 30 Walton County residents who completed our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.



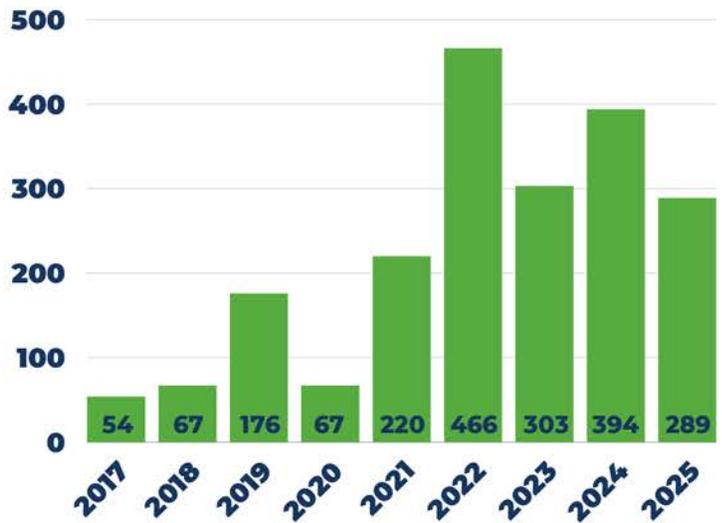
## TRAINING STATISTICS

January 2017 - September 2025

● Number of Courses Offered



● Number of Individuals Trained



# EXERCISES

## OPERATION: SLEIGH BELLS RING

### Donations Management Functional Exercise

In addition to providing support to the Matrix C.O.C's Community Christmas program, this exercise tested our ability to manage donation operations. Participants created a process to sort the thousands of donated resources as well as to fulfill resource requests from a pre-vetted list.

## OPERATION: WHAT'S MY ZONE?

### Public Information and Warning Functional Exercise

This exercise was designed to test the County's external notification process and system, AlertWalton. An informational message was sent to the database on the first day of Hurricane Season, sharing the contact's specific evacuation zone and a link to our website for more preparedness material.

## ANNUAL EOC EXERCISE

### Hurricane Functional Exercise

Developed and delivered by WCEM staff, the County's activation staff and partners participated in this discussion-based functional exercise and walked through potential injects of a tropical event. Participants of this exercise included over 50 activation staff, community partners, and Walton County leadership.

## ACTIVE ASSAILANT

### Active Assailant Full Scale Exercise

Each year, WCSO facilitates a full-scale active assailant exercise at a different Walton County School. Paxton School, located on the northern portion of the county, allowed participants to test timely response capabilities. Catie Feeney, Operations Coordinator operated in Incident Command. Doug Hirsch, Logistics Coordinator participated as Safety Officer and was instrumental in the planning capacity of the exercise.

## SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTERING

### Sheltering Full Scale Exercise

In partnership with the Florida Department of Health in Walton County (FDOH - Walton), the WCEM planned and executed a full-scale Special Needs Sheltering (SpNS) exercise to test the capabilities of sheltering staff and DOH medical personnel. While internet capability was not a planned inject for the exercise, it proved to be a learning opportunity for new DOH shelter staff, as they practiced the client intake process on paper.

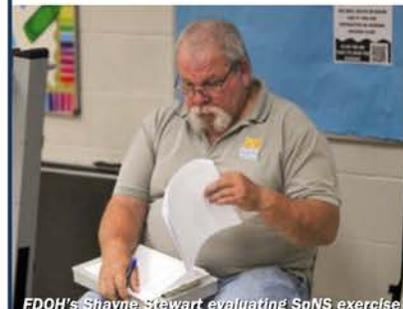
In addition to the exercise, WCEM staff had the opportunity to meet with Freeport High, Walton County School District, and Matrix C.O.C staff to make updates to the existing General Population Shelter plan.



FDOH's Dr. Kerrian Hazley



Shelter staff loading supplies for SpNS exercise



FDOH's Shayne Stewart evaluating SpNS exercise



FDOH & WCEM staff reviewing exercise injects

## DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET

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. 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.

- Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance (EMPA) grant comes from the Florida Catastrophic Trust Fund and is funded through home and business insurance surcharges. The **EMPA grant award is \$105,806, annually.**
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) annual award is based on population and distributed by FDEM from FEMA. **The EMPG grant award for the fiscal year was \$56,632.**
- Through Volunteer Florida, our department has the opportunity to apply yearly for the Citizen Corp grant, which improves our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Amateur Radio Emergency Support (ARES) programs. **\$10,000 was award to purchase equipment and materials** to support the CERT and ARES programs, training members of our community to respond to emergencies and disasters within their local communities.
- One-time capital purchases included a 100KW trailer-mounted generator, a Ford F-250 truck, and four P25 compliant portable radios, totaling \$137,000.

**The department's operating budget for FY 25 was \$779,660, with WCEM receiving \$470,222 in general revenue funding.**

## MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) & INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS & CONTRACTS

MOUs and interlocal agreements in blue skies are the key to successful operations in gray skies:

- Approved Amendment No.:1 and the Third Option to Renew Agreement No.: 021-017 with DRC Emergency Services, LLC (DRC) for Disaster Response Services effective August 10, 2025 through August 9, 2026
- MOU with the Tri State Christian Camp regarding utilization of Camp property and facilities during emergencies and disasters
- Interlocal Agreement between Walton County and the City of DeFuniak Springs regarding utilization of the DeFuniak Springs Community Center during emergencies and disasters.
- 2025 - 2026 Option to Renew MOU regarding utilization of Walton County Fair Association Property and Facilities During Emergencies and Disasters with the Walton County Fair Association renewing the Agreement for one (1) additional year effective April 16, 2025 through April 15, 2026
- Awarded Request for Proposal (RFP) No.: 24 - 25 for Emergency Management Services to Tetra Tech, Inc. to support debris monitoring and recovery efforts.

## **SECURED \$75,000 DRONE REPLACEMENT GRANT**

WCEM received three \$25,000 grants from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)'s Drone Replacement Program. This funding will support the purchase of three new drones to enhance situational awareness and operational capabilities during emergencies and disaster response.

In addition to upgrading the department's equipment, WCEM has established a Walton County Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Working Group with local public safety partners, with the goal to expand capabilities region-wide.

## **UPDATED OVERTIME POLICY FOR FEMA COMPLIANCE**

WCEM collaborated with Walton County Human Resources to revise Policy 5.9 – Overtime Pay, ensuring full alignment with FEMA's Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG). This update strengthens the County's ability to obtain disaster reimbursement for eligible personnel costs.

## **STREAMLINED GRANT APPROVAL AND DELEGATION AUTHORITY**

A new resolution was drafted and approved to rescind and replace Resolution 21-92, expanding the County Administrator's authority to sign grant applications and execute qualifying agreements, amendments, and modifications. This includes all State and Federal mitigation and resiliency grants and the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (SMAA), resulting in a more efficient and timely grant agreement and award process.

## **OBTAINED TORNADO DEBRIS REMOVAL REIMBURSEMENT GRANT**

WCEM successfully applied for and received \$400,707.85 in grant funding for Tornado Debris Removal. This reimbursement covers costs associated with the removal and final disposal of debris generated by the January 9, 2024 tornadoes impacting Walton County, supporting recovery efforts and reducing the financial burden on local resources.

## **EOC UPGRADES**

The Operations Room has been significantly upgraded to enhance communication and functionality. Improvements include a standalone sound system, a new wireless microphone setup, and an HDMI matrix switch for more efficient display distribution. The Ops-PC was also replaced to better support multiple monitors and overall performance.

Additionally, new communications capabilities were added, including an HF radio for Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) and SHARed RESources High Frequency Radio Program (SHARES) operations, a secure RF modem with encryption, two new repeaters offering internet gateways and digital services, and a portable repeater to support ARES and CERT activities.



*NWS staff performing damage assessment of January 2024 tornado in DeFuniak Springs, FL*

# STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

## CPM CERTIFICATION

This year, Director Jeff Goldberg and Deputy Director Donna Free proudly earned their Certified Public Manager® (CPM) certificates after completing the rigorous two-year program through Florida State University. The nationally recognized CPM program is designed to strengthen leadership within public service by providing advanced training for managers and supervisors. Our department's leaders, alongside ten other county leaders focused on professionalizing public management in Walton County, enhancing their leadership effectiveness, and improving overall organizational efficiency. Jeff and Donna's achievement reflects their commitment to excellence and continued growth in service to Walton County.

## FDEM'S EOC CREDENTIALING

Jeff Goldberg, Donna Free, and Catie Feeny of the WCEM team, and Lt. Tom Palmer of Walton County Fire Rescue (WCFR) received credentialing for Florida EOC leadership qualifications through FDEM's historical recognition process. This program evaluates prior training, education, and real-world experience to credential individuals in key EOC leadership roles.

- Jeff Goldberg, Director – EOC Manager
- Donna Free, Deputy Director – Planning Section Coordinator
- Catie Feeny, Operations Coordinator – Operations Section Coordinator, EOC Manager, and Public Information Officer
- Lt. Tom Palmer, WCFR – EOC Branch Director (serving as Emergency Services Branch Director during activations)

## FEPA SERVICE AWARD

Catie Feeny was honored with the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) Service Award at the 2025 FEPA Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. As the Area 1 Governor and lead of the FEPA Communications Team, Catie plays an active and influential role within the Association. This award recognizes individuals who make significant, uncompensated contributions that directly enhance and benefit the FEPA organization—an impact Catie exemplifies through her service and leadership.

## SKILLBRIDGE AND INTERN PROGRAMS

This year, our department successfully launched the Department of Defense (DOD) SkillBridge Program, welcoming five United States Air Force service members to our team. Each participant gained hands-on emergency management experience, and every graduate of the program transitioned into a full-time Department of Defense (DOD) contract positions. This partnership strengthens our workforce and demonstrates our commitment to supporting veterans as they move into civilian careers.

In addition, we hosted three higher-education interns—two graduate students from the University of Central Florida's Emergency Management program and one undergraduate student from Florida State University's College of Communication and Information program. We look forward to continuing and expanding these programs in the years ahead.



D. Free and J. Goldberg with CPM Instructor, L. Wood at CPM graduation in Tallahassee, FL



C. Feeney with FEPA President, Shannon Weiner, receiving FEPA Service Award in Orlando, FL



D. Free, C. Feeney, and Intern, Morgan Combs volunteering at Escambia County's HERricane camp



Skillbridge employee, Thomas Dobbs receiving his FEMA PDS certificate



Walton County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) recognizing WCEM & WCFR staff for FDEM EOC Credentialing Program



WEST FLORIDA  
EMERGENCY