

EM Program Stakeholders Meeting Minutes for September 2026

EM Program – Quarterly Update

- Mark and Martha participated in the CoFB's exercise at the FBPD HQ to explore their readiness to activate an EOC
- Jami graduated from FEMA's Advanced EM Academy – NCEM now has two of only 1200 Advanced EM Academy graduates nationwide
- Mark and Scott participated in FDOH's shelter set-up drill in Yulee and Mark attended their annual ESF-8 Partners meeting
- Mark attended the Eagle View Mapping demo with the Property Appraisers Office – attendees agreed that the demonstration was impressive
- Martha attended the state's Individual Assistance recovery class and attended the Region 4 exercise (barge vs bridge scenario); R4 plans to have two TTXs per year moving forward
- EOC hosted a public Red Cross Disaster Shelter Operations class at the EOC – School District is now working with Red Cross to arrange another offering for their administrative staff
- EM personnel have been involved in lots of special-events planning (security for the NE FL Fair, bike rides, festivals, and holiday parades) – the 9/11 Memorial is Friday at 0900 at the NCSO HQ
- The quadrennial re-write of the Multi-Jurisdictional CEMP Base Plan has been underway for several months; factoring time for the four jurisdictions to review the draft from mid-October to mid-Jan, the Base Plan for the next four years of the EM Program should be ready to submit to the state for their formal review by the end of January.
- Scott, our logistics specialist, has identified a temporary solution to the lack of a secure, environmentally stable storage facility for the Program's training equipment, disaster supplies, and emergency equipment: a reinforced Conex container to store supplies and the old Volunteer Fire Department building in Bryceville to secure loaded trailers out of the weather. Long-term, EM will have a bay in the facility planned for the Public Safety Training Center.
- The ESF concept of operations and position-specific training for ESF POCs will be held at 2 pm on the afternoons of Sept 23, 24, 25 – sign-up using the QR code (emailed to full EM Stakeholders distribution list on 09/09)



• 2026 EM Training Program Updates

1. Jami reported that the TEAM for GIRLS session in June was a great success thanks to our Stakeholders.

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2. NCEM taught the G-400 Advanced ICS course at the end of June and G-235 Emergency Planning in July.
3. Director Cooper clarified that NCEM plans and schedules training events, and distributes that information to the EM Program Stakeholders, quarterly rather than annually. He asked that our partners contribute to that plan at each Stakeholder meeting, or by getting with Jami directly, for situational awareness among all.
4. Jami said that NCEM has had a recent request for disaster debris management training; Briana agreed that the suggested Mass Prophylaxis course offered through a consortium would be welcomed by FDOH-Nassau. Jami solicited feedback regarding any others for the multi-year training and exercise plan (MYTEP) that the state asks each county to contribute to. Also reminded everyone that most regional training opportunities are hosted in Jacksonville, they are more centrally located and have more people, so they are able to fill the required number of seats for state-supported courses. Jami reminded everyone that the courses taught locally with internal or other county instructors contain the same information and are taught the same way the state offers.
5. FLEX is the state's replacement for the SERT TRAC system; all ICS courses are tracked through it and individuals have to have accounts set up in order to register for any ICS or other in-person EM class. The system is still having issues but they are working through them.
6. *Community Preparedness Program* – 10 AM on the second Thursday each month at the EOC (CPP Passport training topics are subject to change)
 - All-Hazards Preparedness, Poison Control, and Active Assailant were well attended
 - Schedule is on OneNassau website – September's will be the 911 Communications class tomorrow morning, with a behind-the-scenes tour of the Dispatch Center. October is Fire Safety Month so our CPP class will be on fire safety.

• **Natural Hazards Mitigation Strategy and Prioritized Project List Updates**

1. Mark said there have been no changes to or comments on local mitigation priorities from our jurisdictions.
2. Reminded everyone that NCEM is responsible for tracking project proposals, whether they are funded/initiated, completed, or withdrawn – Town of Hilliard and unincorporated Nassau County provided updates on each of their projects' status after the meeting.
3. No new mitigation projects have been submitted to be ranked/prioritized in the past quarter. If anyone has a proposal and wants to apply for federal funding, the summary information needs to be sent to Mark so that it can be scored and added to the list.

EM Stakeholder Updates

(changes to capabilities/capacities, updates to plans, grants, projects, training & exercises held)

• **City of Fernandina Beach**

- CoFB Building Dept – N/A
- CoFB Fire Dept – N/A

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- CoFB Manager's Office – Sarah Campbell clarified that their EOC exercise was to evaluate their readiness to fit into the EOC system and review their emergency plans; identified that their plans have not yet been finalized or adopted by the City Commission. They are actively contributing to the development of the new CEMP Base Plan and have a Watershed Management Plan in place.
- CoFB Planning – N/A
- CoFB Police Dept – N/A
- CoFB Public Works & Roads – N/A
- CoFB Utilities/Stormwater – N/A
- **Florida Divisions & Departments**
 - FDEM Region 4 – Josh Saunders, R4 Recovery Coordinator, announce new leadership for FDEM; the Governor appointed FDOT Secretary as Acting Exec Director, Jay Arnold is new Chief of Staff and Deputy Exec Director of Finance & Administration, Frankie Lumm is the new SERT Chief, meteorologist Amy Godsey is the Acting Chief of the Response Bureau, a new Planning Chief and new Individual Assistance officers have also been named. More than 40 individuals representing 25 agencies participated in the R4 exercise at Jax Naval Air Station last week. All EM Stakeholders are invited to participate in regional exercises. The next one will have a terrorism component and is being planned for an April/May timeframe at either St. Johns or Clay EOC.
 - FDOH-Nassau – Briana Angstman reported that she completed the position-specific Planning Section Chief course, they held a successful Special Needs Shelter Operations exercise with their staff, participated in the Healthcare Coalition's meetings, participated in Baptist Medical Center's Missing Adult exercise, and hosted an ESF-8 Partners meeting to discuss emergency response shelter and mass dispensing operations.
 - FDOT Region 2 – Sarah Hipps, EM specialist, let everyone know that she does cover 18 counties so she wouldn't be able to be the ESF-1 POC in this EOC but does want to have a conversation with EM about how Nassau's ESF-1 desk might be staffed and expectations
- **Nassau BOCC Departments and Offices**
 - Animal Care Services – N/A
 - Building Dept – Robert Hunt introduced April Gregory who will be participating in EM Stakeholder meetings moving forward
 - Capital Projects – George Murray provided their department's progress during the past quarter via e-mail, including the August ribbon cutting and completion of Hornets Dr between US-17 and Theresa Ct; expansion of the NCFR Station 20 crew quarters that began mid-August should be completed in spring of 2027, while NCFR Station 30 construction should start by end of September; box culvert replacement is underway for phase 1 of the CR-121 project, so the stretch from Balderdash Pl up to 1/3 mile south of Horseshoe Cir S is expected to remain closed through at least next week.
 - Development Services – N/A

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- Fire Rescue – Chief Rigdon said his fire station updates were covered under the Capital Projects report
- Manager’s Office – hired a new communications manager, Brandyi Phillips
- Office of Management & Budget – Chris Lacambra reported that their DRA is ready to submit to FDEM; Brittany Contardi explained that the DRA is their Disaster Readiness Assessment; counties provide the state with copies of local policies to verify that they meet the requirements for federal Public Assistance to help get disaster recovery funding into communities sooner; OMB did have to update some policies. Chris let everyone know that some of the Public Assistance for 2024 storms has not yet been received.
- Planning Dept – Elizabeth Backe reported that they are progressing on the 2050 Comprehensive Plan, the goals and objectives will be addressed in the coming months and hopefully to the Board for consideration and adoption in 2027.
- Public Works, Roads, and Rec – Doug Podiak reported that Westside Park playground is now open, Scotts Rd lift station rehab has been done, and ditch maintenance is ongoing.
- Stormwater & Drainage – Katie Peay reported that floodplain management is now under her department; the watershed plan development project has gone out for bid, and some of the acquisition and demolition projects for the Thomas Creek area will be assisted through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds awarded after hurricanes Nicole and Ian, but not yet received.
- Strategic Advancement – N/A
- **Nassau Clerk of Courts** – N/A
- **Nassau Property Appraiser/GIS** – Katelyn Holton described the Eagle View demonstration of their high-resolution aerial photography, 3-D, and oblique imaging capabilities; added that the company had provided a proposal that included biennial fly-overs for data collection, and once collected those images would be available to the whole county, but no funds to obtain the service have yet been identified.
- **Nassau School District** – Stephen Johns reported that he will be conducting facility walk-throughs with Fire and Police department representatives over the next two months and he is working with EM to develop operational plans for student reunification after incidents.
- **Nassau Sheriff’s Office** – Director Cooper announced that it is budget season, departmental promotion exams are being conducted at the Training Center this week, and Director Slebos has retired, Kay Lynn Crews is now the Director of Corrections and Courts. Doug Podiak clarified that storage building construction planned for the Training Center is in the “scope of work” phase.
- **Nassau Supervisor of Elections** – N/A
- **Nassau Tax Collector** – N/A
- **Town of Callahan** – N/A
- **Town of Hilliard** – Lee Anne Wollitz reported that the Town is wrapping up their vulnerability assessments which were funded through Resilient Florida, they are working on removing

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encroachments at Hilliard Air Park, and contractors' opportunity to bid on the Town's planned community center facility opened today.

- **Other Stakeholders** (Authorities, Boards, Chambers, Committees, Districts, Private Partners):
 - Amelia Island Mosquito Control District – Cole McCarthy announced that in spite of recent rain activity the mosquito counts are not too bad and that he is not aware of any detection of arboviruses within the county
 - American Red Cross NE FL – Mary Ann Giannini thanked Lee Anne Wollitz and the Town of Hilliard for facilitating their new partnership with the First Assembly of God; they have Red Cross Shelter Operations Training scheduled on 10/3. Two Nassau residents who volunteered after the last public Shelter Operations Training event are now Disaster Assistance-trained and recently responded locally for the first time. Red Cross volunteers participated in two local back-to-school events, shared information about hurricane preparedness, and introduced residents to their fire safety and smoke alarm program.
 - Baptist Medical Center – N/A
 - HCA Healthcare – N/A
 - Nassau MRC & Hands4Hearts – N/A
 - OREMC (Okefenoke Rural Electric) – James Riggins announced that their annual Membership Corporation meeting will be held this Saturday.
 - RYAM (formerly Rayonier) – N/A
 - SJRWMD (Water Management District) – via e-mail – September marks approximately one year since rainfall began trending below normal across the Lower St. Johns River Basin. While recent rainfall has been beneficial, recovery takes time, and continued water conservation remains important as our water resources respond.
As of September 3rd, Nassau still has a 13.17-inch rainfall deficit, Duval has a 15.45-inch rainfall deficit, and Baker has a 19.65-inch rainfall deficit. The “rainfall deficit” is only the difference between the amount of rain received compared to what is considered normal. Recovering from this prolonged drought will require substantially more rain than the measured rainfall deficit. DEP hydrologists say it would take approximately 36 inches of rainfall before the end of the year to restore groundwater levels, replenish surface water, and recover from drought impacts. *Water use restrictions for NE FL remain in place.*

Minutes of EM Program Stakeholders Meetings are always available:

<https://www.onenassau.com/em-stakeholders>

**Next EM Program Stakeholders Meeting is
Wednesday, December 9th, 10:00 – 11:30 AM**