



Levy County Board of County Commissioners
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Levy County Quarterly Department Report

Department Information

Name of Department	Emergency Management
Name of Department Head	Leatha Keene

Department Deliverables

Deliverable <i>(To be determined by the Department Head)</i>	Second Quarter FY <i>(January-March 2026)</i>	Third Quarter FY <i>(April-June 2026)</i>	Fourth Quarter FY <i>(July-September 2026)</i>
Preparedness and Community Engagement	Participated in Community Outreach with local partners, and increasing community awareness and education.	Completed participation in the Statewide Hurricane Exercise and enhanced readiness by updating plans, resources and ensuring operational preparedness for the season.	
EOC Design & Development	Finalize conceptual design and begin architectural drawings for new EOC.	Advanced the EOC project by moving the design and development milestones.	
Emergency Response (Drought/Wildfires)	Coordinated with state on emergency declaration; implemented burn ban.	Continued administration of state and federal grants and	



Charlie Kennedy, Vice Chair, District 1
 Rock Meeks, District 2
 Desiree Mills, District 3
 Tim Hodge, Chair, District 4
 Johnny Hiers, District 5

		oversight of projects.	
Comment:	Thank you to the leadership and staff for all the support!	The success of this quarter is a direct result of our team's dedication. I am incredibly proud of Caleb and Jordyn's fantastic work!	

Department Highlights

Third Quarter FY (April-June 2026)

Emergency Management participated in the Statewide Hurricane Exercise on Wednesday, April 15th.

Key Aspects of the Day:

- *Hurricane Exercise Engagement:* Emergency Management provided injects to FDEM to test emergency operational coordination, response planning, warning core capabilities, and to train Emergency Management staff on roles and responsibilities.
- *Exercise Objectives:* Emergency Management aimed at improving information sharing and response planning practices.

Emergency Management remained focused on preparedness efforts for the 2026 Hurricane Season.

Hurricane Season officially began June 1st and continues through November 30th:

- *Preparedness:* Staff strengthened emergency preparedness through activities, including but not limited to public outreach, updates to emergency plans, resource inventory, and participated in coordination meetings with volunteer organizations, regional and state partners.

Emergency Management has been dedicated to grant administration and program compliance of both State and Federal funding.

- Emergency Management continued the administration of 9 state and federal emergency management grants, ensuring compliance with program requirements, timely reporting, and coordinating 10 FEMA funded projects with county staff, state, and federal partners.
- Emergency Management through situational reporting of the Cow Creek Fire on April 21st to FDEM was approved to receive the Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG). It provides a 75% federal cost share for eligible firefighting and emergency response expenses.



Emergency Management has continued advancing the development of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), moving the project through planning and design milestones.

- *Project Development:* The project remains on schedule during the Design Development phase. New renderings are being finalized for review and approval. The next major milestone is completion of the Design Development package, followed by submission of civil engineering plans to the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) for permitting. Permit submission is anticipated in August, with civil design completion project for November.



Second Quarter FY (January-March 2026)

Emergency Management participated in the 3rd Annual Superheroes Day at Rafter Cross Cowboy Church.

Key Aspects of the Day:

- *Educational Engagement:* Emergency Management spoke with students about their careers, and roles in emergencies.
- *Community Partnership:* Held at the Williston church, it brought together local heroes and children to build positive relationships with first responders.

Emergency Management has been dedicated to development and design of the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and have already begun finalizing drawings of the EOC.

The New EOC Features and Infrastructure (Completion-Late 2028):

- *Operational Capacity:* The new 11,088 square feet EOC will more than double the space on the Command Center floor.
- *Infrastructure Strength:* The EOC will be built to withstand wind speeds up to 200 mph., significantly increasing the safety of personnel during activations.
- *Technology & Support:* The new EOC will feature a 30 foot video wall for real time data and tracking.

Emergency Management focused heavily on managing severe drought and high wildfire risk, which resulted in a prolonged local state of emergency and a county wide burn ban.

Emergency Management supported the Local State of Emergency Declared (Feb 12th) due to prolonged dry weather, severe drought indicators, and high wildfire potential, the Board of County Commissioners declared a state of emergency. A strict ban on all outdoor burning was enacted, including but not limited to yard waste, bonfires, campfires, and land clearing fires, which was extended multiple times.