



# BRACE YOURSELF

Be Ready Alliance Coordinating for Emergencies



## Keep On Keepin' On!



Volunteer Florida, the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, has designed a

workshop to help communities prepare for and recover from disasters.

Keep On Keepin' On (KOKO) was offered in Escambia County on Tuesday, March 16 at Olive Baptist Church.

KOKO provides participants with an opportunity to learn about the emergency management cycle, receive a toolkit to help in planning or expanding Continuity of Operations Plans, participate in a powerful hurricane exercise and a post-disaster damage assessment, learn to identify the impacts of a disaster and anticipate immediate and emerging needs, develop disaster-relief projects that can meet community needs, and build partnerships that survive far beyond the workshop. Endorsed by county emergency management professionals, the KOKO workshop teaches community organizations of all kinds to survive disasters and prepares them for leadership in the local nongovernmental disaster response.

**Thank you to the sponsors who helped bring this workshop to Northwest Florida:** BRACE, SAFER Santa Rosa, CERT, Lifeguard Ambulance Services, Escambia County Emergency Management, Santa Rosa County Emergency Management, Citizen Corps of Santa Rosa County, and United Way of Escambia County.

## BRACE Educates Local Students During Hazardous Materials Week



Members from BRACE's Preparedness/ Mitigation Committee (Burt Fenters and Kim Walden) and members of the LEPC Public Education and Awareness Subcommittee (Maralee Sartain and Jim Crumlish) came up with a simple idea for this year's involvement in our local Escambia schools. Five short messages were developed for the students to announce as a Public Service Announcement (PSA) on their school TVs

each day while a matching slide is shown. Each PSA asked students questions such as, "Where are hazardous chemicals in your home?" "How should you protect yourself while using chemicals?" and "How do we protect the environment?" The end of the educational week was marked by promoting the Regional Round Up for Hazardous Chemicals which took place February 27th.

**Hazardous household materials include air fresheners, ammonia, bleach, carpet & upholstery shampoo, dishwasher detergents, drain cleaner, furniture polish, mold & mildew cleaners, oven cleaners and laundry room cleaners.**

Three school science classes (Hellen Caro Elementary, Bailey Middle, and Washington High) provided Shelter In Place brochures to their students. These brochures provide the students an opportunity to discuss the safety precautions they have learned with their parents. The science teachers will survey the students and forward their data to the LEPC so they can obtain an estimate of how many students shared information with their parents about something they learned during Hazardous Materials Week.

For materials used during this educational week view: [www.bereadyalliance.org/news/news-current.asp](http://www.bereadyalliance.org/news/news-current.asp).

## National Flood Awareness Week

**March 15-19 is National Flood Awareness Week.**

Floods are the #1 disaster in the US, and anywhere it rains, it can flood. How flood-prone is your home? What about your business? 25% of all businesses that close due to flooding never reopen. Just two inches of water in your home or business could cost you \$7800 in damages. Hurricanes cause flooding many miles inland, so don't assume safety simply because you aren't directly on the coast. **Rate your risk, check coverage rates, and find an insurance agent at [www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/](http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/).**



# Calendar of Events

- March 16** – Keep On Keepin’ On Workshop led by Volunteer Florida. Olive Baptist Church, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- March 23** – ESF18 Meeting; Public Safety Office • 1 p.m.
- April 5** – SPIN Database Training; TBA
- April 13** – LMS Workshop; Public Safety Office • 2 p.m.
- April 15** – HurrEvac Training
- April 21** – LEPC Meeting; Pall Life Sciences in Ellyson Park • 9 a.m.
- April 24** – Earth Day
- April 29** – NOAA Hurricane Hunter Aircraft at Pensacola Gulf Coast Regional Airport; Tours open to the public from 2:30 to 5 p.m.
- May 7** – Points of Distribution (POD) Exercise; TBA

## Recurring BRACE Meetings:

### BRACE Homebound Committee Meeting –

First Wednesday of each month • 10 a.m.;  
United Way Building

### BRACE Executive Committee/Board of Directors

**Meeting** – Fourth Wednesday of each month  
7:30 a.m.; United Way building or Baskerville  
Donovan building

### BRACE Preparedness/Mitigation Committee

**Meeting** – First Thursday of each month • 8 a.m.;  
United Way building

### BRACE Programs and Services Leadership

**Meeting** – Second Thursday of each month  
7:30 a.m.; United Way building

### BRACE Partnership Committee Meeting –

Second Thursday of each month • 11 a.m.  
United Way building

### BRACE Marketing Committee Meeting –

Third Thursday of each month • 4:30 p.m.  
United Way building

### BRACE CERT Sub-Committee Meeting –

Fourth Friday of each month • 12 p.m.;  
Location varies

Call Maralee at 444-7135 for details and updates.

## Contact Us

BRACE welcomes your calls and emails. We can be reached at (850) 444-7135, or by email at [BRACE@BeReadyAlliance.org](mailto:BRACE@BeReadyAlliance.org).

Visit us at [www.BeReadyAlliance.org](http://www.BeReadyAlliance.org) for more tips and facts to help prepare you and your family in case of an emergency.

Daylight Savings Time began March 14.  
Did you change the batteries in your smoke detectors?

## The Lowdown on the BRACE Hurricane Hoedown



On February 26th, BRACE hosted its first Hurricane Hoedown –

a fundraiser to help educate the community on the programs and services of BRACE.



Sue Straughn served as emcee and attendees enjoyed music from CrossTown Band, learned line-dancing from Shannon Erdwins of Shannon Productions, enjoyed delicious food and southern hospitality, and had hoedown photos taken by Randy Soloman from Rock Star Bride Photography. The Sanders Beach Community Center provided a perfect backdrop for this event, showcasing the beauty and science behind a fantastic mitigation project. Thank you to all of our hoedown sponsors, partners, and volunteers who helped make this event a success. Yee Haw!

**Check out the photo gallery on our website for pictures from the event!**

[www.bereadyalliance.org/gallery/](http://www.bereadyalliance.org/gallery/)

**Thank you to our sponsors:** Uncle Bob's Self Storage, Gulf Power, Walmart, Flounlacker Law Firm, Saltmarsh, Cleaveland & Gund, 102.7 WXBM and Soft Rock 94.1, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, Catholic Charities, Dr. Jennifer Ham Major & Associates, Early Learning Coalition, Emerald Gaits Events, EscaRosa Coalition on The Homeless, E.W. Bullock, Florida CERT Association, Gulf Coast Community Bank, Hiles-McLeod Insurance, McDonald Fleming Moorhead, Racine's Feed Garden & Supply and to Ryan Rennie of Boy Scout Troop 484 whose Eagle Scout project provided the backdrop for our photos.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Ian Peterson and Taylor Davis – two Escambia County high school students who received BRACE awards at the regional science fair in January for their preparation and mitigation inspired projects! Ian's Senior Division project was Wind Energy II- Energy After a Natural Disaster and Taylor's Junior Division project was Hurricane Proof Your Florida Roof: Using Herculiner to Prevent Water Infiltration.

## Volunteer Opportunities

BRACE has a number of opportunities for volunteers in the upcoming months.

- Event Planning Committee for Y.E.P.! Youth Emergency Preparedness Expo and annual meeting
- Adult and Teen CERT class participants
- The next CERT class will begin in April – dates to be announced
- Fire Corps Committee Members
- Committee Members interested in helping on one or more of the BRACE committees (Partnership, Marketing, Preparedness, or Homebound)



For more information on any of these opportunities, email [brace@bereadyalliance.org](mailto:brace@bereadyalliance.org) or call the BRACE office at 850-444-7135.