

# Okaloosa County News Release

1 | National Co. Government Month  
3/31/2010  
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## April is National County Government Month

The National Association of Counties (NACo), declares the entire month of April “National County Government” month, and the theme is “Healthy Counties.” Additionally, Okaloosa County recently learned that it ranks #9 out of 67 Florida counties for a healthy county. The following is a few statistics that offer a glimpse into Okaloosa County Government:

- **NACo Discount Prescription Card** available in Okaloosa County, offering about a 24 percent discount to any resident.
- **102,199 911 calls** received in FY 09; A slight increase from the previous year of 100,507.
- EMS had **21,358** responses in calendar year 2009; 20,429 in 2008
- **15,838** Fire responses in 2009; 15,196 Fire Responses in calendar year 2008
- In **Emergency Management Division**, **1,654** registered for Ready Okaloosa, a hurricane preparedness database and **4,082** for Code Red, which calls your home or cell phone if there is bad weather in your neighborhood.
- **531 Dept. of Correction inmates** for 2009, down from 633 in 08. Corrections hired a Population Manager and works closely with pretrial service releases, saving money, space in jail, new construction, etc. Average length of stay in jail is @ 21 days.
  - All inmates receive a health screening upon intake unless they are posting bail immediately.
  - All inmates receive a physical on day 14 and receive treatments as needed for anything from a minor cut/scrape to flu, obstetrics, cancer, etc... Whatever they come in with and whatever may emerge while they're here.
- **Public Works Dept.** recycles and have a mobile recycling unit that travels surrounding counties to collect Hazardous Waste. We maintain 41 county park areas to include boat ramps, beach areas and an arena in Baker.
  - maintains 73 bridges and box culverts
  - 652 miles of paved road
  - 74 miles of cold mix base stabilized roads
  - 207 miles of dirt road

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Okaloosa County now has a sustainability committee, made up of various departments, that looks at how to conserve resources and save money throughout the county. (April is also Water Conservation Month.) Recent accomplishments include saving meeting time and gas via a Polycom system where staff meetings can be held through television in centrally located offices north and south. Coming soon, Board of County Commission meetings can be viewed on personal computers. The Citizens Information Line (311), new water reclamation facility and the 911 Emergency Operations Center are also major improvements this year.

Enhancing quality of life in Okaloosa County in addition to health and services, are the local libraries, museums, the Extension office, and Veterans Services. The mission of Okaloosa County government is to be responsive to citizens in providing an appropriate level of accessible services on a cost effective basis. Critical County values include the following: continual improvement of infrastructure; health, safety, and well-being of the citizens; preservation of natural resources; responsible economic development; leadership; and stewardship.

For more on this topic, tune into "Focus on Okaloosa" Cox Channel 6 Community television, on Mondays at 10 a.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in April. Visit [www.okaloosafl.com](http://www.okaloosafl.com) anytime.

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