

# **Okaloosa County News Release**

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## **Emergency Management Participates in Nation's Largest Communications Exercise**

Okaloosa County Emergency Management took their communications trailer to Camp Blanding, Florida, this week to participate with emergency responders throughout Florida in "Operation Radar." Emergency responders will practice response to all types of disasters from natural disasters, to terrorism and homeland security initiatives, in order to sustain risk management in all aspects of the mission and decision making for public safety.

The communications trailer, awarded to Okaloosa County through state grant funds, is fully operational with generators, computers and communications equipment. "It is a mobile emergency operations center, with radio, computer and satellite equipment for up to 60 emergency responders," stated Emergency Management Coordinator Ken Wolfe, who also took a computer analyst Richard Bailey on the exercise for any computer issues that may arise.

Emergency responders will sustain readiness and interoperable communications by identifying risks, assessing tasks and implementing corrective interoperable communications actions in order to safeguard people, property and operating environments against hazards. Okaloosa County will participate with emergency responders from the States of Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Florida counties and municipalities as well as responders from DOD, FEMA, and Homeland Security. This is the largest exercise of its kind ever held and will continue through Friday, January 29.

For more information about Public Safety, call our new 311 Citizens Information Line and visit [www.okaloosafl.com](http://www.okaloosafl.com), and select the public safety icon on the home page.

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