

# **Okaloosa County News Release**

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NR14-22

## **Tour Your Okaloosa County Emergency Operations Center Monday**

Okaloosa County 911 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will host a tour in conjunction with the Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC) Open House on Monday, Feb. 17. The Open House is from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and emergency management staff will provide guided tours during that time. Visitors are required to enter through the secure front entrance of the EOC (adjacent to the west entrance of NWFSC). For more information, contact Public Safety at 850-651-7150.

The 911 Emergency Operations Center is 25,400 square feet and includes facilities for Public Safety and 911 Dispatch. The partnership with the NWFSC and Okaloosa County in 2011, helped to make the EOC a reality. When the EOC is activated in an emergency, staff will be able to utilize the specially designed classroom building for sleeping and relief accommodations and to activate the arena for public evacuation space if necessary.

The EOC develops and implements public information and safety, health and welfare policies, addresses special needs, secures state and federal emergency aid and monitors the region before, during and after all local emergencies. Local, state and federal training activities and exercises are planned throughout the year.

The Okaloosa County 911 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) adds space and technology, while providing a safe and efficient facility to serve emergency workers and citizens. The EOC was funded at \$7 million of the project, with \$4 million from local tax revenue and \$3 million from state and federal grants. It is a state-of-the-art facility supporting:

- A large screen Audio Visual System (10' x 34')
- Six 65" television monitors
- Policy room, conference room, two breakout rooms (with smart boards,) fully equipped media room, Ham radio room and public information office
- Rest and Relief facilities for emergency workers
- Geothermal energy and large built-in emergency generators

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