



# NEWSLETTER

**December 2025 - Bringing Communities Together Since 1977**



## IN MEMORIAM - JAMES G. BENNETT

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) honors the life and service of Commissioner James G. Bennett, who unexpectedly passed away this month. Commissioner Bennett served with distinction as a Baker County Commissioner and as a member of the NEFRC Board of Directors, where he served as Council President. His leadership, deep commitment to public service, and his other noteworthy achievements have left a lasting impact on our region. Beyond his professional accomplishments, he was respected and admired for his integrity, vision, and genuine care for the community he served. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues. His legacy and services will continue to inspire us.



Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter. We hope you find it informative and useful. Please share it with others, and encourage them to subscribe to stay up-to-date with all the exciting developments happening in the Northeast Florida Region. Together, we can continue to make the Region a better place for everyone.

# WE'RE HIRING!!!



Interested in making a difference across Northeast Florida by engaging with local governments, fostering valuable community engagement and advancing strong, vibrant economies? Join our team!

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

➤ **INTERNSHIP: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

## SEND US YOUR CV

visit our website to apply:

[www.nefrc.org/nefrc-positions](http://www.nefrc.org/nefrc-positions)



It is almost time for the NEFRC Regional Awards for Excellence & Elected Officials Luncheon! We would love to see you in the room. You still have time to register. Click the link below for more details and to reserve your seat

**Join Us On January 8!**

# PROJECT & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS


## Strengthening Healthcare Preparedness

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC), through a contract with the Florida Department of Health, manages the Region 3 Healthcare Coalition Alliance, a regional network focused on strengthening how healthcare systems prepare for and respond to emergencies. The Coalition brings together hospitals, long-term care facilities, emergency management, public health, EMS, and other partners across 18 counties in Northeast Florida to ensure the region is ready to respond to disasters and largescale emergencies that impact healthcare services.

Throughout the year, the Healthcare Coalition provides members with valuable opportunities, including training, exercises, planning support, and shared equipment to improve readiness before emergencies occur. The Coalition also plays a critical role during active events by facilitating information sharing, coordination, and collaboration among partners to support patient care and continuity of operations. This year's offerings include in-person and virtual training courses, regional tabletop exercises, and ongoing opportunities for partners to connect, learn best practices, and strengthen relationships that are essential during emergencies.

## This Year's Trainings & Opportunities

[Please Click Here for Information on Becoming a Member](#)




Healthcare Coalition Alliance  
Region 3  
www.FLRegion3HCC.org

### 2025-2026 VIRTUAL TABLETOP SERIES

**Strengthen your preparedness and build resilience in this year's virtual tabletop (TTX) series**

- Engage in interactive scenarios to test plans and identify improvement opportunities
- Collaborate with partners across the region
- Learn and share best practices to sustain operations during emergencies
- Receive a detailed After-Action Report/Improvement Plan and Certificate of Participation

Don't miss this chance to enhance your readiness, connect with peers, and strengthen your response capabilities.




**SUSTAINING CARE:**  
AN EXTENDED DOWNTIME TTX

**Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
1 PM - 4 PM ET

**Nov 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
9 AM - 12 PM ET


**Thanks to all who joined us!**



**SUPPLY UNDER PRESSURE:**  
A SUPPLY CHAIN TTX

**Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**  
1 PM - 4 PM ET  
[Register](#)

**Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
9 AM - 12 PM ET  
[Register](#)




**STORM RESILIENCE:**  
A TROPICAL WEATHER TTX

**Apr 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
1 PM - 4 PM ET  
[Register](#)

**May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
9 AM - 12 PM ET  
[Register](#)

**QUESTIONS?**  
Contact EmilyP@AIIIClearEMG.com



### Training Notice

Delivered By

CTOS-Center for Radiological/Nuclear Training

**Detecting Contamination Hospital First Receivers (PER-370)**

**Hosted By:** Region 3 HCC Alliance


**Location:** Clay County EOC, 2519 SR 16W, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

**Hours:** 8:00am to 5:00pm

**Dates:** October 29, 2025

**Course Length:** 7 Hours

**Recommended Prerequisites:**  
AWR-140 or AWR-140-W Awareness and Response to Radiological/Nuclear Incidents



### Training Notice

Delivered By

CTOS-Center for Radiological/Nuclear Training

**Operations Level Response to Radiological/Nuclear WMD (PER-348)**

**Hosted By:** Region 3 HCC Alliance

**Location:** Clay County EOC, 2519 SR 16W, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

**Hours:** 8:00am to 5:00pm

**Dates:** October 28, 2025 **OR** October 30, 2025

**Course Length:** 7 Contact hours



## Turning Community Input into Local Vision



The City of Palm Coast is shaping a community-driven economic development vision for a strong, resilient, and inclusive local economy. This effort focuses on supporting economic growth while preserving the high quality of life that makes Palm Coast a desirable place to live, work, and play.

To ensure this vision reflects community priorities, the project team has been actively engaging residents through public meetings and a Community Preference Survey, giving everyone a chance to share ideas and help guide the City's economic future. Through these conversations with residents and the business community, we are reaffirming key priorities such as attracting high-quality jobs, supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs, preparing the workforce for future industries, and ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with thoughtful growth.

The vision also builds on existing plans to expand emerging industries like advanced manufacturing, aerospace, healthcare research, logistics, and technology. By reviewing existing plans, listening to the community, and analyzing economic potential, this initiative will deliver actionable strategies to enhance economic development through workforce development and educational partnerships, business-friendly processes and support programs, and investments in transportation, utilities, and community amenities that attract opportunity, support innovation, and enhance the quality of life in Palm Coast.



# Supporting Flagler County's Flood Resilience Planning



The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) is working with Flagler County through a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)–funded resilience grant to help the community better prepare for current and future flood risks. As part of this effort, NEFRC completed a countywide assessment to identify areas most vulnerable to flooding and better understand how factors such as rainfall, drainage, tides, and coastal surge can combine to increase impacts. Building on this work, NEFRC is now developing an Adaptation Plan that turns these findings into practical, community-focused strategies. The plan will help prioritize actions, identify partners, and explore potential funding opportunities to reduce flood risks to neighborhoods, critical infrastructure, and natural systems over time. Throughout the process, NEFRC has worked closely with Flagler County and its municipalities, sharing findings and gathering local input to ensure the plan reflects community priorities and supports coordinated next steps across the county.

## Staff Work Anniversaries



Here at the Council, the amazing work that we do would not be possible without our fantastic staff. This quarter, we are taking time to recognize those who do the work to help push our mission forward.

- Elizabeth –Chief Executive Officer – 17 Years
- Tyler – Special Projects Coordinator– 8 Years
- Fara – Regional Resiliency Manager – 4 Years
- Monica – Economic Development Program Manager – 4 Years
- Summer – Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinator – 2 Years