

TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX-TV
Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL
Quarter ending: September 30, 2017

ISSUE/description: 2. PUBLIC SAFETY. Informing the public about hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, forest fires, or other life-threatening or property-threatening conditions. Government regulations providing personal safety protection.

How Issue was treated (Program, PSA, etc.):

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time/Duration</u>	<u>Program type</u>	<u>Description</u>
1. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	07/10/17	09:00PM/1minute	News	*
* Law enforcement relies on neighborhood watch groups to help them prevent crimes. The Escambia County Sheriff's Office (ECSO) will provide extensive training for volunteers at their Neighborhood Watch Academy on Tuesday, July 18. "Neighborhood Watch gives the deputies calls for service, accurate information, so they can catch the bad guy maybe before something happens," explained coordinator David Craig. Craig also said that ECSO's Neighborhood Watch Academy is unique in the country. He said it starts with the well-known phrase "see something, say something." "Do you really know what you're seeing when you see it or what to say when you call? How to get an effective response from the police, so Neighborhood Watch Academy helps people get the most out of the agency they're working with," Craig explained.				
2. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	07/10/17	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	**
** A federal lawsuit filed against the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is claiming the agency owes a Northwest Florida nonprofit \$17 million. The money would help Rebuild Northwest Florida 'harden up' thousands of homes. The organization has been helping homeowners since 2008. It was created to help rebuild homes after Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis. Eventually it evolved to 'hardening' homes against future disasters. Some of the work the Rebuild does includes adding tie down to the roofs, putting in new hurricane-resistant windows and garage doors, plus adding metal shutters over windows. About 14,000 homes have been upgraded using a combination of FEMA funding and state dollars. Another 2,400 homeowners could be helped, if Rebuild can get FEMA to ante up the money CEO Garrett Walton believes the organization is entitled to. It could take several months before a final ruling is issued.				
3. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	07/10/17	09:00PM/1.5 minutes	News	***
*** After the heavy rain we saw in June, Santa Rosa County is beefing up its mosquito control. The county started spraying for mosquitoes last month and are now treating holding ponds with larvae-eating fish. Weather experts said June and July should be some of the wettest months on the books in recent years. Spray trucks have shifted into overdrive; liquid larvicides and even larvae-eating fish are being used to keep the mosquito population in check. Environmental Department Programs Coordinator Brian Bradshaw said "We raise the mosquito fish in a pond in Milton at the landfill. The fish are native to the state of Florida and they can eat around 200 mosquito larvae per hour per fish." County workers say property owners can do their part to cut down on the mosquito population be getting rid of standing water where mosquitoes breed.				

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4. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	07/11/17	09:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	****
**** Fire and EMS officials teamed up with the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office on Monday evening for a school shooting mass casualty exercise. The goal is to save as many lives as possible in a worst-case scenario. Brad Baker, emergency management director for Santa Rosa County, said this type of training is especially important in rural communities where fire and EMS crews may be the first people on the scene. First responders like Berrydale Fire Department Chief Gerald Welch know this type of incident can happen anywhere. He said besides knowledge, first responders are gaining confidence to handle a worst case scenario. Santa Rosa County Emergency Management has more active shooter exercises planned over the summer.				
5. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	07/24/17	09:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	*****
***** Pace residents who experienced severe flooding in June went before county commissioners on Monday afternoon pleading for a solution. Santa Rosa County commissioners promised to work harder to fix the flooding problems after hearing more than two hours of passionate testimony from residents. The county has started clearing out public ponds and ditches. Sam Parker, Santa Rosa County District 1 commissioner, said they'll have to take a closer look at more isolated areas like Metron Estates for more feasible solutions. "In some areas it's probably going to be cheaper for us to buy these homes and demolish them whether you leave them as a grass field or retention area then it would be to spend \$3 million to try and retrofit an area that didn't have planned drainage," Parker said. County commissioners will move forward with immediate stormwater drainage relief in the Tiburon and Pace Patriot estates because of county resources in that area like police and fire.				
6. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	08/01/17	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	*****
***** August 1 is the National Night Out, an annual community-police awareness-raising event in the United States held the first Tuesday of August. Police remind citizens that despite the overwhelming presence of social media, community involvement is still incredibly important. Neighborhood Watch groups are as important as ever. Pensacola Police Public Information Officer Mike Wood said, "Bad guys understand people have to work, so we're seeing a lot of home and car burglaries during the daytime." They recommend everyone keep an eye out for each other. The police department hopes to get this message across at the National Night Out and build strong relationships with the community.				
7. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	08/14/17	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	*****
***** On Sunday morning, hordes of residents playing the role of survivors crowded into the University of West Florida, which served as an emergency shelter, to participate in the Western Panhandle Advanced Citizen Corps Academy's three-day exercise. The program teaches citizens skills in emergency response, search and rescue along with terrorism and survival tactics. Organizers say this sort of exercise allows people to see what would happen in a real-world situation. Disasters create emergency needs, and it takes a network of trained individuals to ensure that communities and families get all the help they can during and after a disaster.				

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8. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	08/30/17	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	*****
***** Very few places are capable of withstanding 50 plus inches of rain over a short period of time, but when it comes to disaster response, Escambia County officials are ready. Out of all the counties in Florida, Escambia is perhaps the most prepared, according to Greg Strader, CEO of the Be Ready Alliance Coordinating for Emergencies (BRACE). "Our team in Escambia County led the response to Hurricane Ivan, they've had extensive experience dating back to Hurricanes Erin, Opal, and George," Strader said. "They've got the ability, the training, the experience and a team in place to respond to a disaster of virtually any size." Although county officials are prepared, Strader suggests residents might not be. Strader suggests all residents attend the county's upcoming resource expo. "They will be able to register for community emergency response team training, they will have access to brochures that are specific to the emergency management needs that are specific to this community, information about how to develop a disaster plan, build a disaster supply kit, and resources to stay informed about disasters that may impact this community."				
9. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	08/30/17	09:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	*****
***** Consumer Federation of America reports that more than 80 percent of homeowners with damage from Harvey did not have flood insurance. With a little more than two months left in hurricane season, now is the time to reconsider flood insurance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency reports that there has been a steady decline in policies with the National Flood Insurance Program. "They think, I can spend \$250 a year for coverage or I can buy something else," former State Representative Mike Hill said. Hill is an insurance agent with State Farm. He said that people living in high-risk flood zones are going to shell out a little more. He estimates that the high-end of premiums could run about \$1,800. It is still cheaper than the alternative and many in Houston are going to pay that hefty price.				
10. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	08/31/17	09:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	*10

*10 Thousands of volunteers from across the country have traveled to Texas to help Hurricane Harvey survivors, including people from the Northwest Florida chapter of the American Red Cross. Jerry Kindle, executive director of the NWFL Chapter, said new volunteers need to be ready to go when the next disaster strikes. Images of people escaping rising flood waters and seeking shelter in the aftermath of Harvey is what a lot of people will remember from the unprecedented storm. Many will also remember the volunteers who rushed into the storm's path to help those in need. Red Cross has hundreds of men and women on the ground assisting during this catastrophe. Kindle said the need for more volunteers is always there. "Right now we want to ask people to come in; we'll get them trained because we're going to be in Texas for probably a couple of months," Kindle said. Red Cross is aware a disaster like Harvey can happen in Florida at any time.

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11. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	08/31/17	09:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	*11

*11 Parents might have noticed something different about open house night at Escambia County schools on Thursday. Firefighters with Escambia County Fire Rescue were stationed at 18 of the elementary schools. "We get a lot of fires in Escambia County and a lot of residents do not know about the smoke detector program," said Fire Prevention Education Officer Ray Melton. As parents walked into Warrington Elementary School, they had a chance to sign up to have smoke detectors installed in their home for free. Firefighters occasionally canvass high-risk neighborhoods. However, attending open house night gives firefighters the opportunity to make the connection with parents at school. Principal Dave Schmittou said with 430 kids at his school, there was potential to reach 250 homes. The fire department will come right to your home. Firefighters will install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms and even make sure you have a plan in case a fire starts.

12. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	09/11/17	09:00PM/4 minutes	News	*12
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*12 Thousands of power crews were pre-staged in Irma's path and thousands more are on the way to affected areas. Gulf Power is among the companies that are helping. From Pensacola, they are sending crews throughout the panhandle and throughout the southeast. Monday began with crews rolling to take care of outages in Panama City. About 300 customers were without power in the eastern part of Gulf Power's service area where winds were highest. Even though Northwest Florida's impact from Irma was minimal, Gulf Power spokesman Jeff Rogers said people should stay aware and be careful. Once any local outages are handled, Gulf Power is sending more than 100 employees to help with storm recovery efforts. In some parts of Florida, the power grid will have to be completely rebuilt.

We reported that our stretch of the Gulf Coast appears it will be the only part of Florida to escape Hurricane Irma's fury. Evacuees have come from all over the place - Tampa, West Palm Beach, and Fort Myers, to escape Irma. Pensacola Bay Center is giving hundreds of storm victims and their pets a safe place to stay. As the hospitality began to spread, utility workers and those who'll help after the storm started to trickle in. There are 30 teams from Oklahoma's Grand River Dam Authority. Crews will move to Lakeland, Florida when the storm passes. As one of the strongest storms to ever hit Florida moves across the state, people across our area are opening their doors to storm victims.

13. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	09/12/17	09:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	*13
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*13 Millions of evacuated Floridians are trying to get home. The Florida Highway Patrol is conducting the state's largest movement of evacuee traffic. Florida Highway Patrol Troopers are preaching safety and patience as evacuees make their drive back home. Trooper William Gormley said it could take several days because crews are still working to clear areas that were hit by the storm. He is asking Pensacola residents to stay off the interstates as evacuees make their way back home. He said heavy traffic conditions are expected to continue as more people get on the roads. Florida Highway Patrol encourages local residents to take Highway 90, Highway 98 and other local roads to help keep traffic moving smoothly.

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14. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	09/13/17	09:00PM/4 minutes	News	*14
*14 The Escambia Cares Community Resource Expo is a one-stop shop for community resources and services. The free event this weekend is open to all. Equip yourself and your family with life-saving information about how to be better equipped for hurricanes and other emergencies. The Escambia Cares Community Resource Expo will also feature free food, music, children's activities and information about a variety of services available throughout the county and community organizations. Featured services include those related to neighborhood safety, housing programs, employment opportunities, healthcare, education and more.				
15. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	09/20/17	09:00PM/1.5 minutes	News	*15
*15 The new fire station at Okaloosa County's biggest airport opened on Wednesday. The county-built facility will host Air Force firefighters who will respond to any emergency on the tarmac, civilian, or military. County officials said the facility highlights the teamwork between Okaloosa County and the Air Force. "If we ever need it for any reason, there are many reasons, it could be a sick child, it could be someone who is having a heart attack; and, God forbid, a catastrophe, we now have this beautiful facility right here on the apex of the runway," said Chairman Carolyn Ketchel.				
16. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	09/25/17	09:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	*16
*16 Families living in a Gulf Breeze neighborhood are on high alert after a family of bears was spotted in the area by several people. For a group of black bears, Woodlore Circle seems to have become their playground. The community is concerned the bears have become more comfortable. Their biggest concern is the kids and the dogs in the neighborhood. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) said once a bear finds a food source supplied by humans it's hard to keep them away for good. According to an FWC figure, there are 120 black bears in Northwest Florida. That's a 50 percent increase in more than 15 years. Officials continue to remind residents to do their part to get the bear back into the woods by removing all bird feeders and pet food outside.				