

TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX-TV
Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL
Quarter ending: June 30, 2018

ISSUE/description: 3. 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	04/03/18	09:00PM/1.5 minutes	News	*
* Dangerous distractions behind the wheel include anything that takes your eyes off the road or your mind off what you're doing. The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) is working with other state agencies to remind drivers to stay focused. Statewide in 2017, 50,000 crashes involved distracted driving. Colonel Gene S. Spaulding, Director of the Florida Highway Patrol said texting is one of the most dangerous driver distractions because it takes your eyes off the road, at least one hand off the wheel, and turns your mind to something other than driving. Other dangerous distractions include putting on makeup, tending to children in the back seat, eating, tuning the radio, checking GPS navigation, and even daydreaming. "Texting while driving, along with other distractions, has resulted in tragic heartache for far too many families we proudly serve," said Walton County Sheriff Michael Adkinson, President of the Florida Sheriffs Association. The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) is partnering with the Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Police Chiefs Association, Florida Sheriffs Association and AAA to promote April as Distracted Driving Awareness Month.				
2. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	04/05/18	09:00PM/1-minute	News	**
** Meteorologist Ashley Ruiz reported that Colorado State University released their first 2018 Atlantic Hurricane Season forecast on Thursday. Dr. Philip Klotzbach from CSU announced at the National Tropical Weather Conference they are forecasting 14 named storms, 7 hurricanes, and 3 major hurricanes. The Atlantic hurricane season officially begins on June 1st, but storms can form outside of hurricane season.				
3. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	04/10/18	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	***
*** Florida law says drivers must slow down 20 miles per hour below the posted speed limit or move over a lane for stopped emergency vehicles and work zones. The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles says that drivers breaking that law have caused more than 200 crashes so far this year. Roadside workers told Channel 3 News that when the traffic's coming by, the driver may be distracted looking down on their text, phone or anything like that. "So we keep the cones here and sometimes we use flaggers, but just an added element of a hazard of someone bearing into our work zone can always lead to tragic consequences," said Gordon Paulus, the Communications specialist for Gulf Power.				
4. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	04/18/18	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	****
**** Some local drivers want the speed limit increased on a portion of Gulf Breeze Highway, and took their concerns to State Representative Frank White. The speed limit is currently 45 miles per hour on the stretch by Naval Live Oaks. White asked the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to conduct a speed study. The study did find that 85 percent of drivers are speeding in both directions, but FDOT told Channel 3 News that they're not going fast enough to require a change of the speed limit.				

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5. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	04/19/18	09:00PM/1.5 minutes	News	*****
***** Meteorologist Ashley Ruiz reported that the "cone of uncertainty", used to show where the center of a storm is likely to track, will be shrinking this year, thanks to improvements on the forecast record of the National Hurricane Center. Lieutenant Garrett Black, Aerial Reconnaissance Weather Officer (ARWO) of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (Hurricane Hunters), said, "Our data is averaged to typically reduce about 30 percent of the cone size, giving the forecasters more confidence in their forecast and build that lead time to help people be prepared." In addition, NHC forecasters will extend watches and warnings out to 72 hours to allow an extra 24 hours for storm preparation.				
6. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	04/20/18	09:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	*****
***** Russell "Rusty" Nail has been selected as the new Escambia County Fire Chief. He joins Escambia County with over 26 years of experience as an accomplished chief fire officer including more than 12 years of supervisory and nine years of command-level experience, mostly in a fast-paced, large metropolitan fire department of 17 stations, with over 500 personnel and a budget of up to \$100 million. Nail currently serves as the City of Palm Bay Fire Rescue Fire Chief and Emergency Manager. His experience also includes working as a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician. Nail's duties here will include supervising fire rescue staff, providing oversight and directing implementation of internal operations, managing expenditures to the approved annual budget, developing goals and objectives and ensuring compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations.				
7. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	04/23/18	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	*****
***** According to the National Weather Service out of Mobile, an EF-0 tornado hit Molino on Sunday. The wind was powerful enough to uproot trees. Branches, shattered glass and a damaged roof show the aftermath of the powerful windstorm. Molino Volunteer Fire Chief Anthony Manning said most damage was seen across properties along Crabtree Church Road. The storm damaged multiple homes. Homeowners say insurance companies were quick to respond. They say it could take 10 to 14 days for them to receive their claims.				
8. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	04/23/18	09:00PM/1.5 minutes	News	*****
***** When a tornado warning was issued in Okaloosa County, Ryan Schreck whipped out his cell phone. "I love storms, so the first thing I did was grab my camera, grab my phone, come up here to the sixth floor, and just started looking around and saw something lurking in the distance, thinking it might turn into something. Sure enough, it did," said Schreck. Alvin Henderson, public safety director in Okaloosa County, said that tornado videos help his crews survey the damage left behind. "We look for input of pictures and video. We always stress and I know you all do too..." "Do not put yourselves in harm's way to get that picture, that video, but it's helpful to us to see those and help make a determination as we're looking at the damage that we're seeing," said Henderson. Henderson told Channel 3 News that social media is playing a big role in his job. "You never can have enough resources." said Henderson.				

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9. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	05/02/18	09:00PM/1.5 minutes	News	*****
***** This past weekend marked the 4th anniversary of an historic flood. April 29, 2014, northwest Florida received 24 inches of rain in 24 hours. Bristol Park in Cantonment was one of the hardest hit areas. On Thursday, Escambia County commissioners will take the next step to address the flooding problem in that area. The county's master plan includes buying homes along Eleven Mile Creek and demolishing them so they can restore the creek and manage the flood plain. They received six million dollars from FEMA to acquire 27 homes in the neighborhood. The more property acquired, the lower the flood stage of the creek. At their meeting, commissioners will vote to have staff continue the process of acquiring the homes.				
10. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	05/04/18	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	*10
*10 Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola officials are warning those with laser pointers not to point them at aircraft. The warning comes after an increase in reported laser strikes in the area. Depending on the intensity of the laser, it can temporarily blind, even cause permanent damage to pilots. Over the past six weeks, NAS Pensacola pilots have reported two different incidents. Air Operations Officer Bill Schomer said the pilots didn't suffer long-term effects, but this is not something to take lightly. Schomer has asked law enforcement to beef up patrols in areas they have seen lasers coming from, because not only is it dangerous, it is a federal offense, punishable by up to 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.				
11. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	05/05/18	09:00PM/3 minutes	News	*11
*11 May is Florida Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. Last year, there were more than 9,000 motorcycle crashes across the state of Florida. Ken Grant, an instructor with Harley Davidson's Riding Academy in Pensacola, said they train more than 900 riders here each year to prevent crashes from happening. Lt. Eddie Elmore with Florida Highway Patrol said last year motorcycle crashes killed 11 people in Escambia County, one person in Santa Rosa County and six people in Okaloosa County. Grant said too often drivers and bikers are not aware of their surroundings. He said safety for bikers starts with what you're wearing. It is important for riders to wear boots, jeans with no holes, gloves, and a helmet that is certified by the Florida Department of Transportation. "Get trained, get licensed, ride sober, wear a helmet and by the way, don't forget to have a blast while you're doing it," explained Grant.				
12. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	05/11/18	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	*12
*12 "Nationally, under the age of 14, drowning is the second leading cause of non-accidental death," said Jack Lynch, President of Water Safety and Youth Pensacola. Hundreds of students in Escambia County were at the University of West Florida learning about water safety. The course taught them the rule, 'Throw Don't Go.' Water safety enthusiasts told Channel 3 News that throwing a floating device towards the victim could save his or her life. You throw a tree limb, a branch, anything, and pull them back in; you don't go in after them," said Lynch. Cassandra Waller, an Escambia County School District P.E. specialist said the most important lesson that students were taught - not to panic. "Panic is the worst thing that somebody can do. If you can, relax and float. You can float for hours," she said. Volunteers said they hope these lessons last a life time. "Something that we asked all these kids here today to do is go home tell your brother or your sibling so hopefully they can continue to plant the seed."				

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13. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	05/14/18	09:00PM/1-minute	News	*13
*13 We reported that local lifeguards are preparing for more rescues as a low pressure system is moving closer to our shores. It was a busy weekend for lifeguards on Pensacola Beach. They rescued 46 people over the weekend and did more than 3000 "preventative actions" where they tell people to stay away from rip currents. Over the next 5 days, the low pressure area has a medium chance (40%) for formation. It will move slowly to the northwest toward the Florida Panhandle over the next few days. Chief of Pensacola Beach Public Safety, Dave Greenwood said both before and after the storm, the water can still be dangerous. "You still have wave energy coming in and it takes several days for that to drop." More lifeguards will be added if necessary. If conditions worsen later this week, lifeguards do expect to fly red flags and people won't be allowed to get in the water.				
14. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	05/18/18	09:00PM/1- minute	News	*14
*14 The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) wants to make sure boaters are safe going into the busy summer season. Memorial Day weekend kicks off the "100 days of summer," and Saturday marks the start of National Safe Boating Week. FWC officers will be out all weekend checking boats for life jackets and emergency locator beacons, and making sure people aren't boating under the influence. FWC's annual boating accident report shows that Florida leads the nation in both boating accidents and boating deaths. In 2017, 261 boating accidents involved collisions, and 38 percent of all collisions were due to inattention or the operator failing to maintain a proper lookout. The commission also said that falls overboard have been the leading type of fatal accident since 2003, with drowning as the leading cause of death. If you want to make sure your boat is fully compliant, the Coast Guard Auxiliary will perform vessel safety checks Saturday at West Marine on North Davis Highway in Pensacola.				
15. Stormwatch 2018	06/03/18	03:00PM/30 minutes	Public Affairs	*15
*15 Again this year, WFGX aired in our annual local hurricane preparedness and safety program. The program was hosted by our WEAR-TV's Chief Meteorologist Allen Strum, with reports from Meteorologists Kathryn Daniel, Kaitlyn Wright and Ashley Ruiz. The program provided viewers with information on what to do before, during, and after a hurricane or tropical storm makes landfall in our area.				
16. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	06/25/18	09:00PM/3 minutes	News	*16
*16 The hot, humid days of summer have arrived in Northwest Florida. Medical professionals said as the temperature rises, so do the number of heat-related injuries. "This time of the year, especially on the beach and in the coastal areas, we do see patients that visit the urgent care clinics because of the high heat index," said Marcia Underwood, a nurse practitioner at American Family Care. Whether you work outside, or are having some fun in the sun - always remember to hydrate. If you don't, doctors said you're more prone to overheat, which can turn deadly. Doctors said the elderly have the highest risk of getting heat strokes. Signs of heat stroke include confusion, decreased sweating and skin that is flushed and dry. "That prolonged exposure to heat in combination with dehydration leads to your body not being able to control the core temperatures and that leads to heat strokes," Underwood added.				

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17. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	06/27/18	09:00PM/1-minute	News	*17
*17 The Santa Rosa Island Authority (SRIA) has already started preparations to alleviate traffic congestion during the Pensacola Beach Air Show next month. On Friday, July 13, the SRIA's three trolleys will begin taking people at 10 a.m. and will run its regular route until midnight. The trolley is free. Starting Saturday, July 14, the SRIA will have 10 buses, in addition to the three trolleys, running along the island starting at 7 a.m. They'll also be extending their service area to Park East, located a mile east of Portofino Resort. Buses and trolleys will service Park East and Park West to taken people to Casino Beach throughout the day on Saturday. Busing services to Park East will end Saturday at 6 p.m., but trolleys will resume normal operations until midnight. Passengers will only be picked up and dropped off at the SRIA's designated trolley stops. The official 2018 Pensacola Beach Air Show will begin around noon on Saturday, July 14.				
18. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	06/29/18	09:00PM/3.5 minutes	News	*18

*18 A policy change at the University of West Florida pushes students to be held accountable for incidents involving hazing, sexual assault and drug or alcohol overdose. The change, announced this week, is called the 'Failure to Render Aid' clause and will be added to the UWF student code of conduct. Basically, the clause states students who fail to act on, or report potentially dangerous situations, will be in violation of the code and subject to disciplinary action. UWF spokesperson, Megan Gonzalez says the change comes on the heels of recent events around the country and two incidents involving Greek life on campus. "We know that not everyone is going to agree with this policy," said Gonzalez. "We know it's controversial, but we wanted to take a bold, proactive step to ensure that our students are educated and something of this nature does not happen again." Gonzalez tells us the clause, which was written with input from students, has nothing to do with protecting the university from possible legal action. "This whole policy, the student code of conduct and updating that, has really been focused on how can we make our students more successful, how can we create them as better citizens in the future and that's really our goal here at UWF."

In another story, Santa Rosa County first responders trained at Navarre Beach today. Fire services showed deputies how to safely land an air ambulance. Santa Rosa Sheriff's deputies often arrive first to an emergency and a helicopter hovers while waiting for firefighters to establish a landing zone, but Friday's training could save minutes when time is an important factor in saving a life. The training is an initiative of Sheriff Bob Johnson and Santa Rosa County Fire Services.