



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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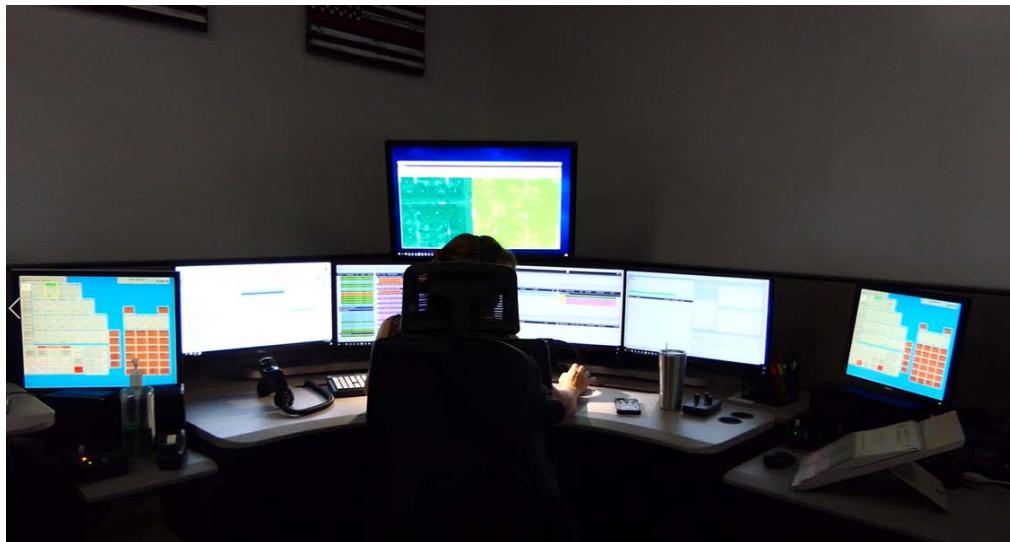
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Sheriff's Office Establishes First Tele-communicator Emergency Response Team in Agency History

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) Communications Center established a Tele-communicator Emergency Response Team (T.E.R.T) for the first time in agency history. The T.E.R.T program allows for public safety tele-communicators to offer mutual-aid to other communications centers during or after a natural or man-made disaster. Public safety tele-communicators face many challenges before, during and after disasters, including staffing shortages. T.E.R.T allows for agencies to request mutual-aid to assist with staffing and other challenges they may be facing.



An FCSO Communications Specialist console.

The selected members of the FCSO T.E.R.T are Joseph Esposito, Megan Burton, and Tina Eddy. Esposito was selected as the Team Leader and has been with FCSO since 2008. Burton is a Communications Training Officer and has been with FCSO since 2015. Eddy is also a Communications Training Officer and has been with FCSO since 2012. All members of T.E.R.T must successfully complete

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multiple FEMA courses and stay current with the Association of Public-Safety Officials (APCO) and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) standards.

"We have had an Emergency Response Team (E.R.T.) within the law enforcement division and a Corrections Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) for the detention division for years, but this is the first time we have established a response team of tele-communicators," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "Our 9-1-1 center is one of the few centers in the state that is accredited and the men and women in our Communications Center do a fantastic job. All three members selected offer a wealth of knowledge and experience in the public safety field and will be able to offer their assistance to other agencies during challenging times."

T.E.R.T is a taskforce that was initiated in 2005 by the APCO and the NENA after learning the critical demand for additional tele-communicators following a natural disaster. For more information, visit <https://www.njti-tert.org/>

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