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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2 Flagler Emergency Planners graduate FEPA Intermediate Academy

March 20, 2019 – Two Flagler County Emergency Management Planners – Lea Tardanico and Nealon Joseph – recently graduated from the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) Intermediate Academy.

“The commitment of Nealon and Lea to expand their horizons for the betterment of Flagler County increases the pride that I already have for our amazing emergency management team,” said Emergency Management Chief Jonathan Lord, noting that volunteers and several community partners round out the team along with county and municipal staff. “I am also grateful for the efforts put forth by the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association to better prepare Florida’s emergency managers for the future.”

Tardanico and Joseph – Flagler County’s newest emergency managers – spent a week in mid-March the Florida National Guard Camp Blanding Joint Training Center with other like-minded professionals from across the state to dive deeper into practical applications and principals of Emergency Management. The course included more than 60 hours of classroom instruction endured in 12- to 14-hour days to simulate real life emergency deployment and response.

“I came away even more motivated to continue my path in emergency management,” Tardanico said. “There is still so much to learn, and it is wonderful to get information directly from the subject area experts.”

Joseph added that nothing tops an opportunity to learn from others’ experiences.

“It really illustrated that there can be a disconnect between what is happening in the field and the operations center,” Joseph said. “It is critical to follow the plans and the planning process to prevent creating a communications gap between the two.”

The Intermediate Academy course training counts toward the completion of the FEMA Advanced Professional Series certification for Joseph and Tardanico.

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