

# Florida SART

## *Genesis – Concept of Operations – Building Capacity – Response*

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# State ESF 17 Emergency Coordinators

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# *Florida Response Structure*

# Emergency Support Function 17 (ESF 17)

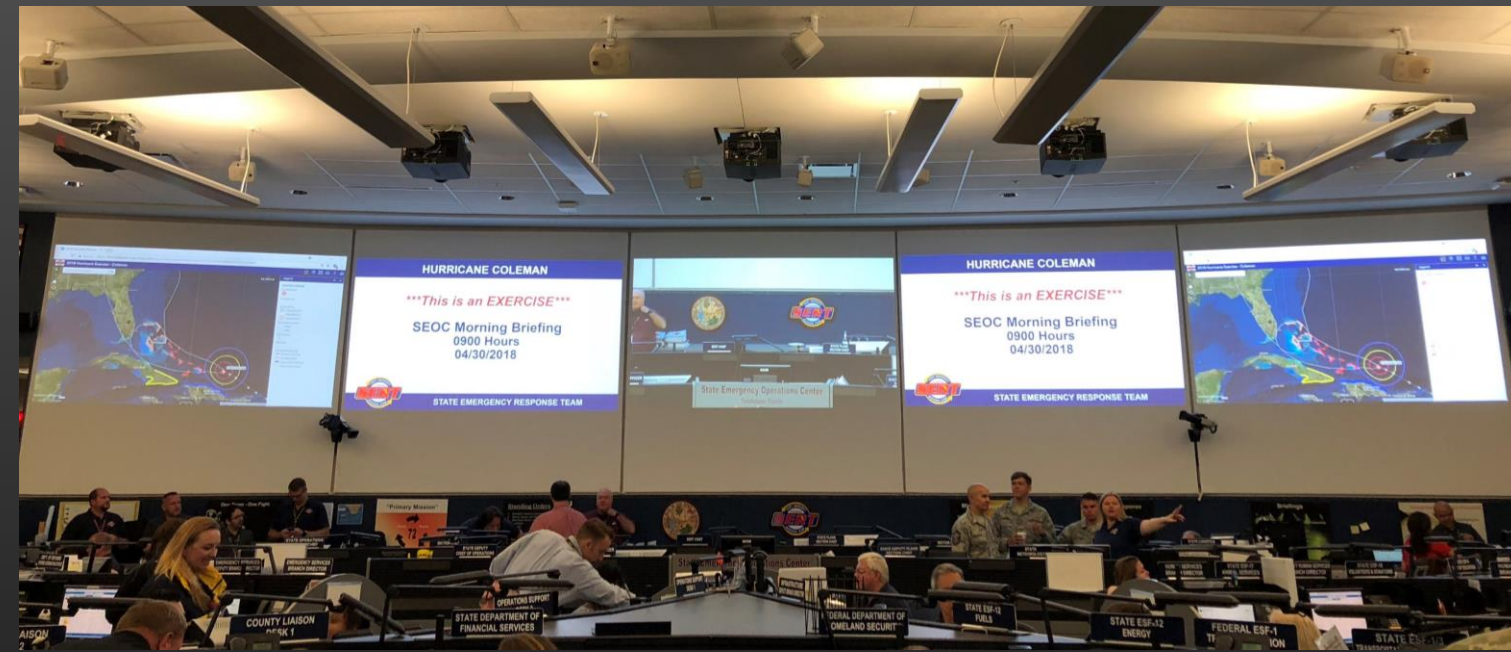
FDACS is the lead agency for ESF 17 in Florida.  
Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, State Emergency Management Act

**ESF 17 mission: Coordinate the state's response for animals (livestock, companion animals, exotic, and wildlife), agricultural, food safety, and vector control issues during an emergency or disaster situation.**

[ESF 17 is a broad mission area.](#)



# State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Tallahassee



# Florida's Emergency Response Structure

*Until the county's resources are exhausted or beyond the capability/responsibility of the county*

**Local  
Emergency First**  
County  
Responsibility  
to Respond

County  
requests  
assistance  
from the SEOC

SEOC assigns  
"Mission  
Request" to  
ESF 17

ESF 17  
coordinates  
Mission  
Request and  
provides  
resources to  
the county

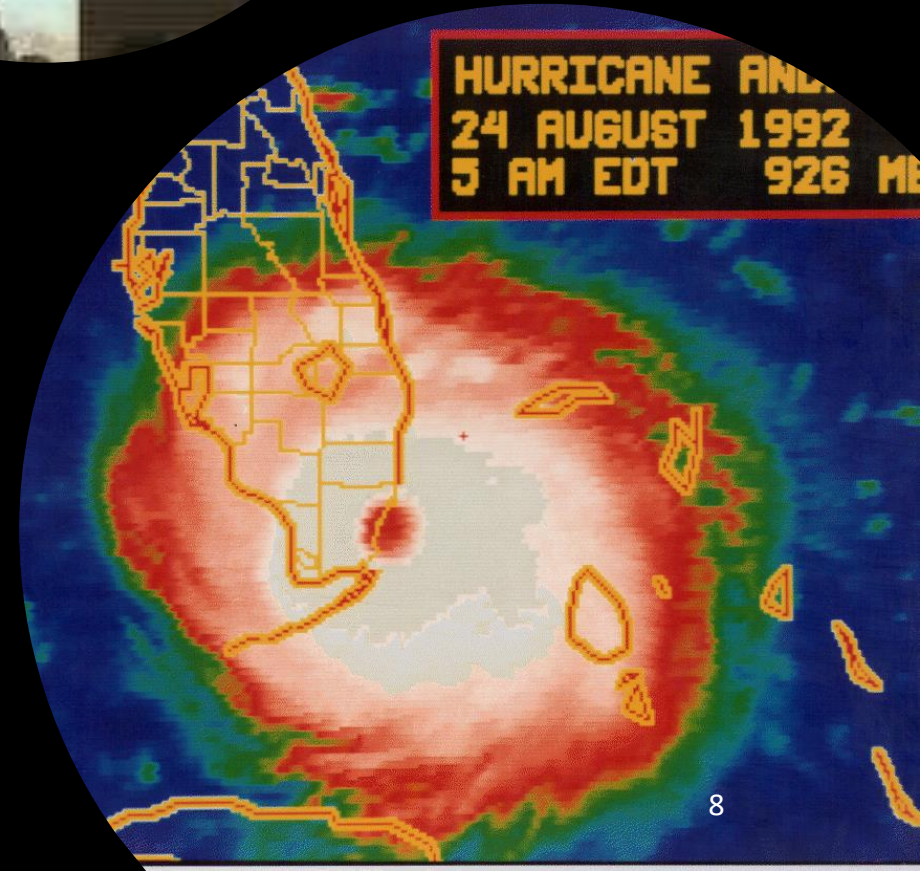


# *The SART Genesis*

# Pre-2003

## No Funding. Limited Resources.

- Hurricane Andrew Aug. 1992
- Hurricane Erin Aug. 1995
- Hurricane Opal Oct. 1995
- Hurricane Earl Sept. 1998
- Hurricane Georges Sept. 1998
- Hurricane Floyd Sept. 1999
- Hurricane Irene Oct. 1999
- September 11, 2001, attacks





# 2004 – Creation of Florida SART

- Est. 2004
- ESF 17 coordinates Mission Requests with SART.
- SART coordinates disaster response for animals and agriculture.
- SART Received Funding:
  - Statewide Homeland Security Grant Program, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
    - Response Equipment
    - Training
    - Planning



# What is SART?

- SART is a “Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group”

Policy guidance + Resource Prioritization = MAC Group

- Consists of 25+ partner agencies (Federal, State and NGO).
- Supports ESF 17 preparedness and response:
  - ✓ *Provides resources (personnel, volunteers, equipment, etc.).*
  - ✓ *Provides technical assistance and subject matter experts.*
  - ✓ *Coordinates information and communication flow.*
  - ✓ *Prioritizes response actions.*

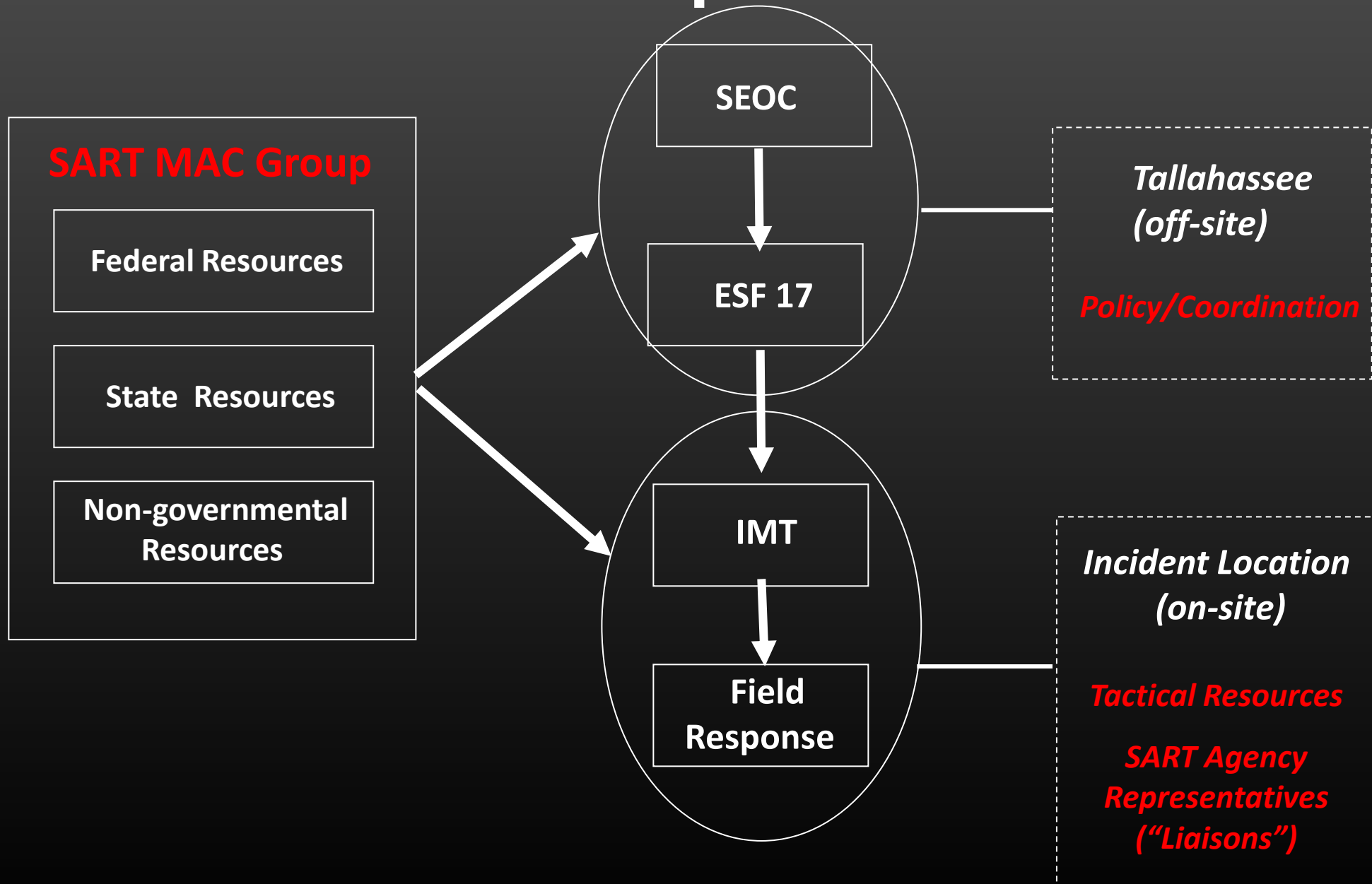
# Who is SART?

- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
- University of Florida/College of Veterinary Medicine
- Extension Disaster Education Network
- USDA/Farm Service Agency
- USDA/APHIS Animal Care
- USDA/APHIS Veterinary Services
- USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
- Florida Aquaculture Association
- Florida Department of Health
- Florida Farm Bureau Federation
- Florida Veterinary Medical Association
- Florida Animal Control Association
- Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association
- Southern Plant Diagnostic Network
- Florida Cattlemen's Association
- Florida Association of Kennel Clubs
- Florida Association of Zoos and Aquariums
- Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- Florida Wildlife Rehabilitators Association
- Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
- Florida State Animal Response Coalition
- Florida Veterinary Technician Association
- Southeast Milk, Incorporated
- Humane Society of the United States
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

# SART Supports Counties

- Counties must address agriculture, animal and vector control incident response issues, but may not have the resources needed.
- SART responds to counties' requests for assistance through the cooperative efforts of its partner agencies.
- SART “fills a gap” for ESF 17 incident response at the local and state level.

# ESF 17/SART Response - CONOPS

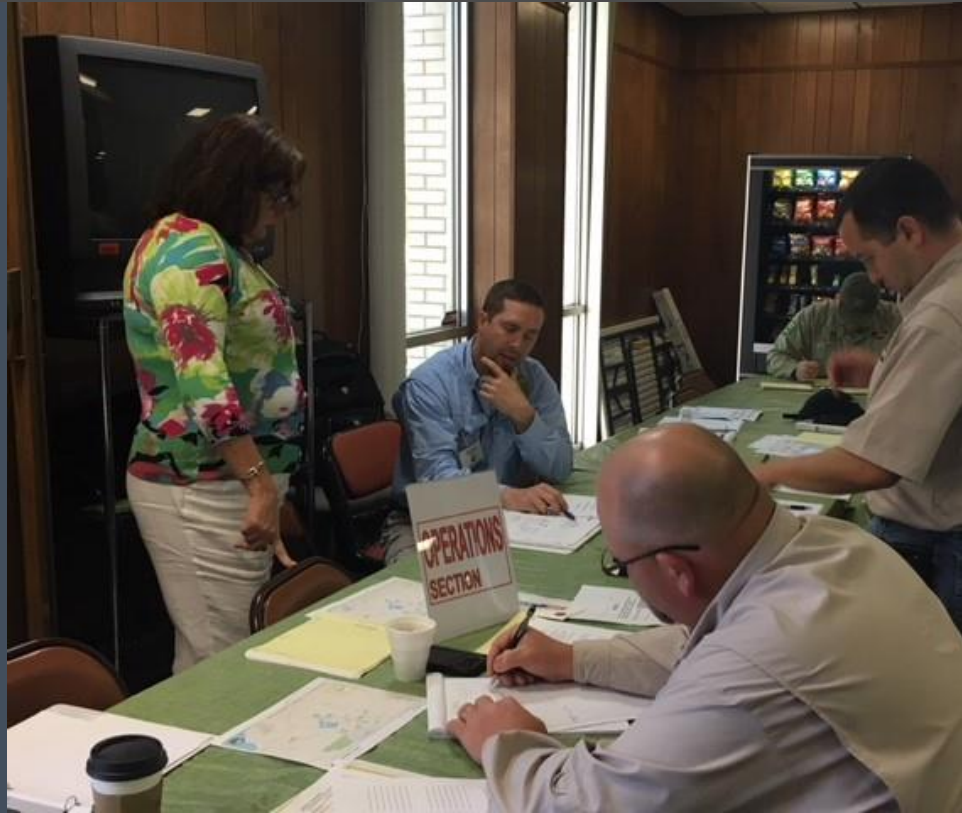


# SART – 2018 Legislative Update

- **Statutory Authority for SART**
  - Chapter 252, State Emergency Management Act, was amended to create statutory authority for SART (s. 252.3569, F.S.).
  - Effective July 1, 2018
- **State funding for SART**
  - Funds provided to FDACS to coordinate the state's response to animal and agricultural issues in Florida in the event of an emergency or disaster situation.



*Building Capacity  
2004-Present*



# Incident Command System (ICS) Training

- SART sponsors and pays for required ICS training for our ESF 17 responders.
- Pre-assigned Incident Management Team for ESF 17.
- Trained and experienced.







# Hurricanes of 2004

- Hurricanes Charley, Ivan, Frances, Jeanne
- ESF 17 and SART Deploys

# Animal Response Equipment

- Animal Sheltering Equipment  
*Mobile Animal Response Equipment (MARE)*
- Livestock Trailers
- Livestock Panels
- Biosecurity/Decon Equipment
- 525-Gallon Water Haulers



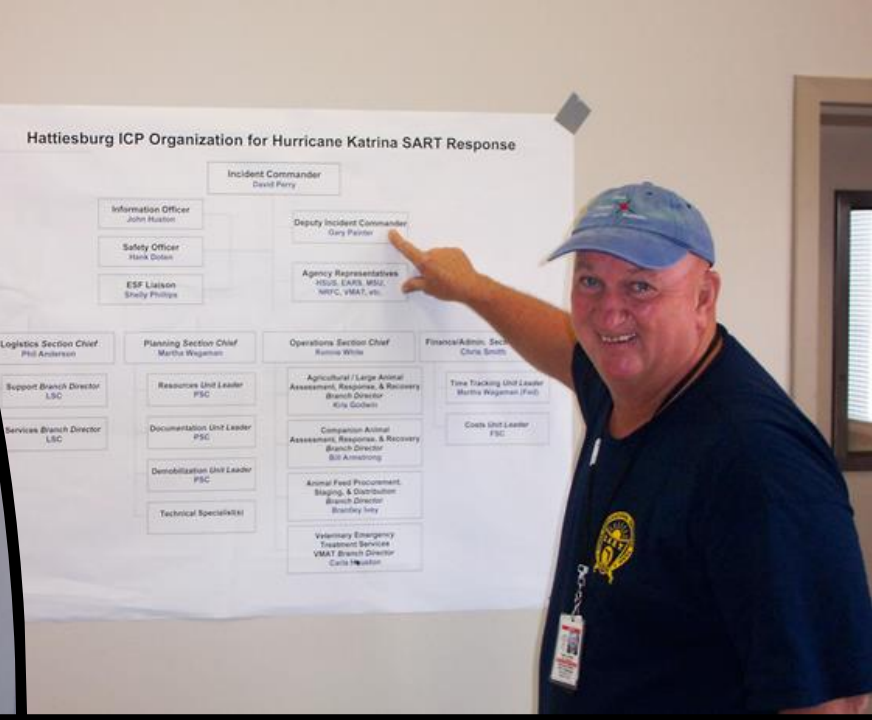
# Animal Response Equipment

- Command Trailer
- Utility Trailers
- Bunkhouse Trailers
- Magnum Kennels
- Animal Technical Rescue Equipment



# 2005 Hurricanes & 2006 PETS Act

- 2005 Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Wilma, Rita, and Ike
- 2005 Hurricane Katrina – ESF 17 & SART Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) to Mississippi
- 2006 Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act

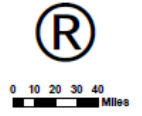
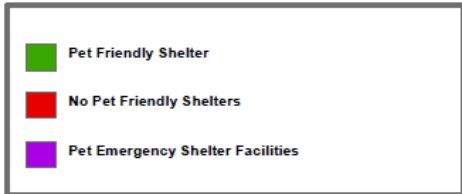
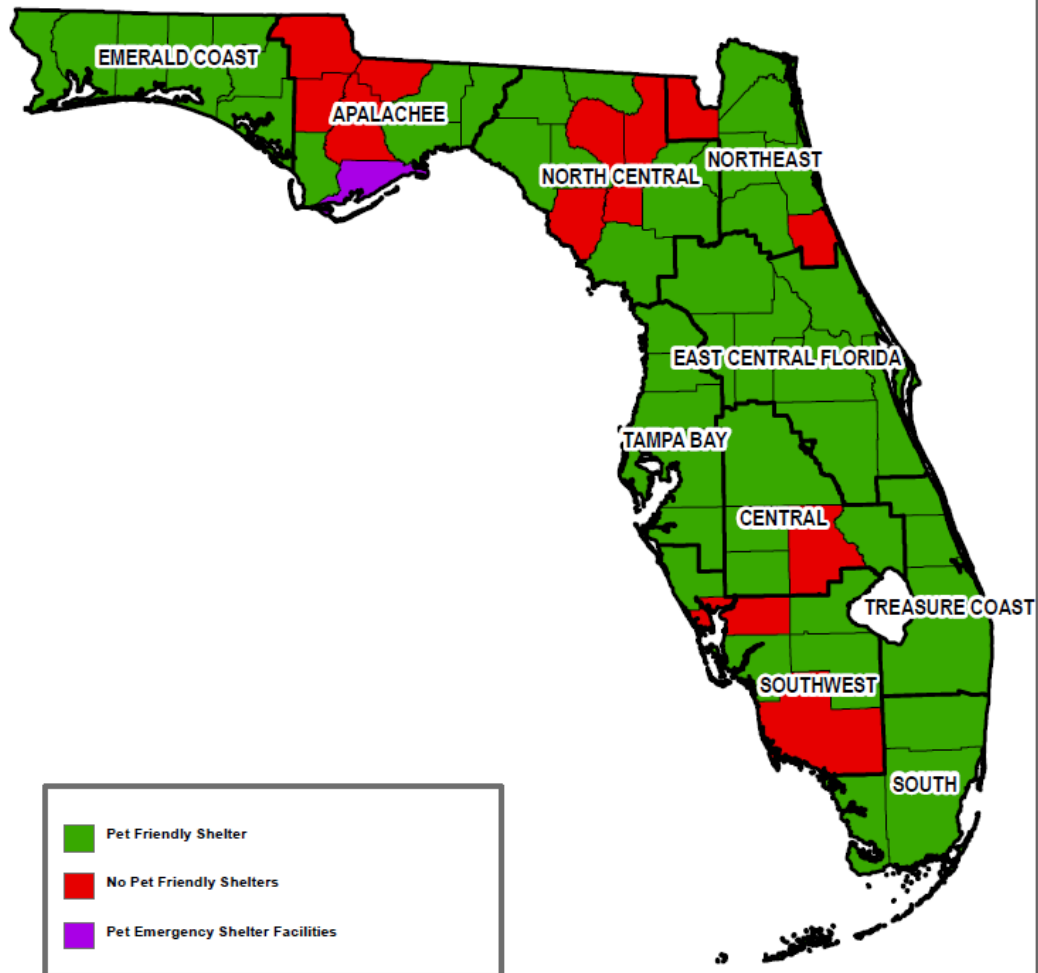


# 2020 Legislation FL Governor Signs CS/HB 705: Emergency Sheltering of Persons with Pets

252.3568 Emergency sheltering of persons with pets.—

(1) In accordance with s. 252.35, the division shall address strategies for the evacuation of persons with pets in the shelter component of the state comprehensive emergency management plan and shall include the requirement for similar strategies in its standards and requirements for local comprehensive emergency management plans. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Department of Education shall assist the division in determining strategies regarding this activity.

(2) If a county maintains designated shelters, it must also designate a shelter that can accommodate persons with pets. The shelter must be in compliance with applicable FEMA Disaster Assistance Policies and Procedures and with safety procedures regarding the sheltering of pets established in the shelter component of both local and state comprehensive emergency management plans.



Disclaimer: Map is intended for reference only  
No warranty for accuracy provided

**FLORIDA COUNTIES WITH DESIGNATED PET-FRIENDLY SHELTERS**

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# ESF 17 Annual County Meetings

Meet with all 67 Florida counties.





# Developed Training: Small Animal Emergency Sheltering

- Teaches participants how to build and operate a temporary emergency small animal shelter in response to natural disasters or large animal cruelty cases.
- Awareness and Operations Levels.
- State-certified by Florida Division of Emergency Management.
- Tuition is sponsored by Florida SART.
- > 1,000 trained and enlisted volunteers.





# Developed Training: Animal Technical Rescue

- Teaches animal technical rescue team members the proper techniques to extricate animals from hazardous emergency situations.
- Awareness and Operations Levels.
- State-certified by Florida Division of Emergency Management.
- Meets National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.
- Tuition is sponsored by Florida SART.



# Veterinary Treatment Team

- University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine.
- Over 50 veterinarians and staff.
- Only veterinary response team available in Florida.



**UF** Veterinary Emergency  
Treatment Service  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA





# Florida Veterinary Corps

- Established to enlist private veterinarians and veterinary technicians for response actions.
- Provide assistance to their communities and the state during a disaster.
- Over 200 individuals have signed up.



# Full Scale Exercises

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# SART Planning Conferences

- SART sponsors a biennial statewide planning conference for all 67 Florida counties and SART partner agencies.



# SART Website

- Is a critical information and communication bridge between SART members and partner agencies.
- Over 45,000 visits a month.
- Register for a SART member account!

[www.FLSART.org](http://www.FLSART.org)



The screenshot shows the Florida SART website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Florida SART logo (State Agricultural Response Team) and links for "Sign Out" and "Register for SART Account". Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of a dog sitting on a wooden platform in a flooded area, with the text "Coordinating Disaster Response for Animals and Agriculture". The main content area features four circular icons with corresponding text: "The SART Sentinel" (news icon), "County Contacts" (phone icon), "Media Gallery" (video camera icon), and "Events Calendar" (calendar icon). A yellow banner at the bottom of the main content area contains the text "2023 SART Planning Conference Information June 6-8, 2023, Daytona Beach, FL". At the very bottom, there are two small images: one showing people working together and another showing a person in a uniform in front of a sign that says "Serving Florida".



# The Sentinel

Monthly newsletter for SART of stories from around the state, trainings and meeting events.

- Distributed to SART partner agencies and over 1,200 members signed up to receive through the SART website.
- Is a critical information source.

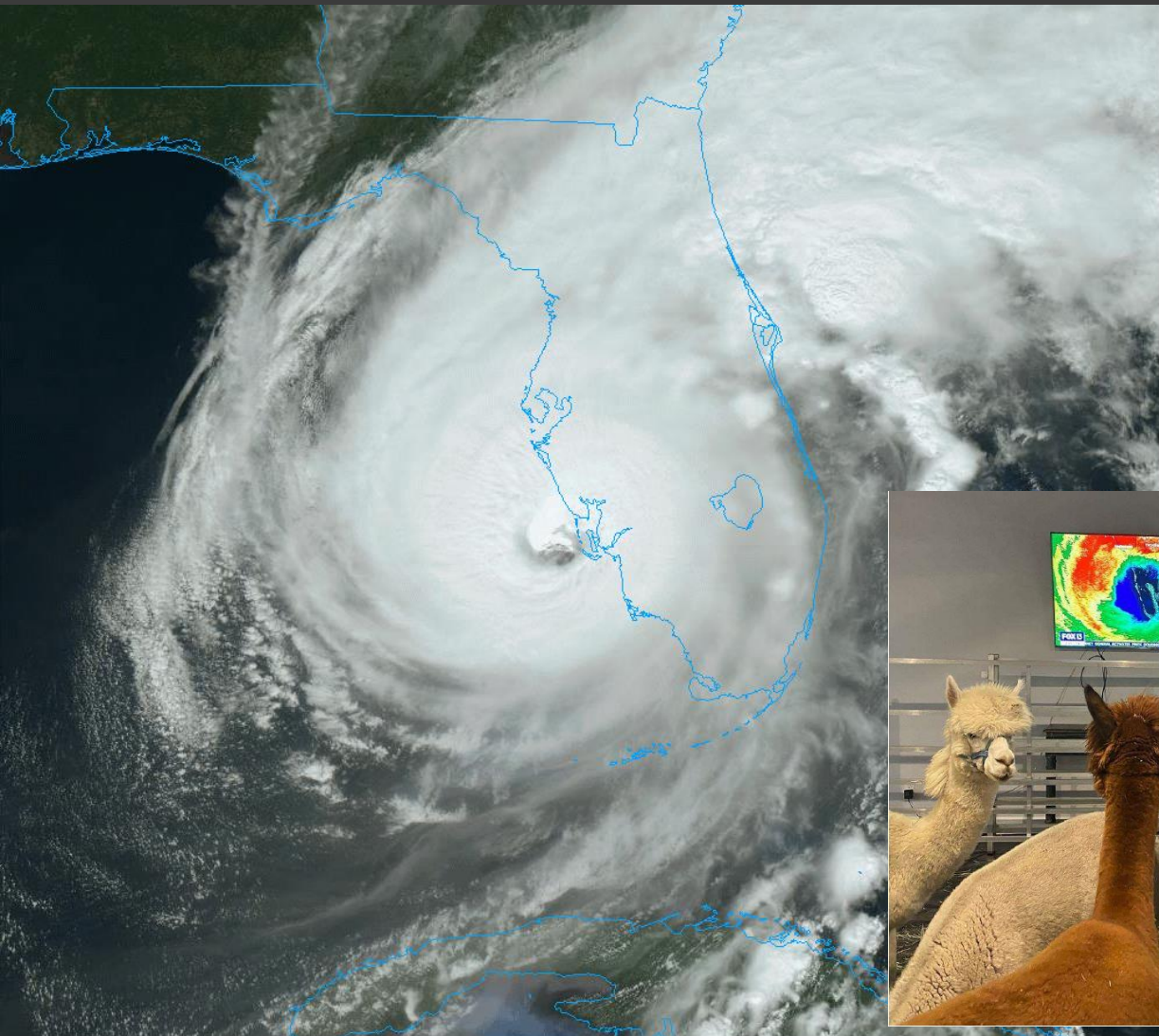
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*Florida SART In Action*

*2022 Hurricane Ian Response*



# Hurricane Ian Impacts – FL landfall Sept 28, 2022



# Deployed 72-person, Type III, Incident Management Team – Sept 30

- Responded to 103 mission requests in WebEOC.
- Set up Incident Command Post, Logistical Staging Area, and Donation Staging Area.
- Deployed some Florida SART partners as “Agency Representatives” on IMT:
  - Florida Veterinary Medical Association
  - UF IFAS Extension
  - ASPCA
  - Humane Society of the United States
  - Florida State Animal Response Coalition/SPCA
- IMT Operations Section:
  - Animal Health Assessment Group
  - Livestock Support Group
  - Veterinary Support & Sheltering Group
  - Donation & Distribution Group



## Deployed Two Mobile Veterinary Clinics

- University of Florida VETS Team (Fort Meyers/Lee County)
- Humane Society of the U.S. (Port Charlotte/Charlotte County)





# Volunteers



- 102 Pet-Friendly Shelters opened pre-landfall.
- Enrolled 174 new volunteers into and deployed 86 volunteers from the ESF 17 Florida Veterinary Corps.
- Deployed >100 Florida SART volunteers and responders to assist at county pet-friendly shelters and animal shelters.
  - 28 from Florida SARC
  - 43 from ASPCA
  - FVMA and UF VETS Team
- Joint messaging “Call for Volunteers”

dbpr

FVMA  
Florida Veterinary Medical Association

**Florida Veterinary Corps Seeks Volunteers**

DBPR is encouraging veterinarians and veterinary technicians to apply with the Florida Volunteer Corps, a group of volunteers that will assist in animal rescue and well-being during the aftermath of Hurricane Ian.





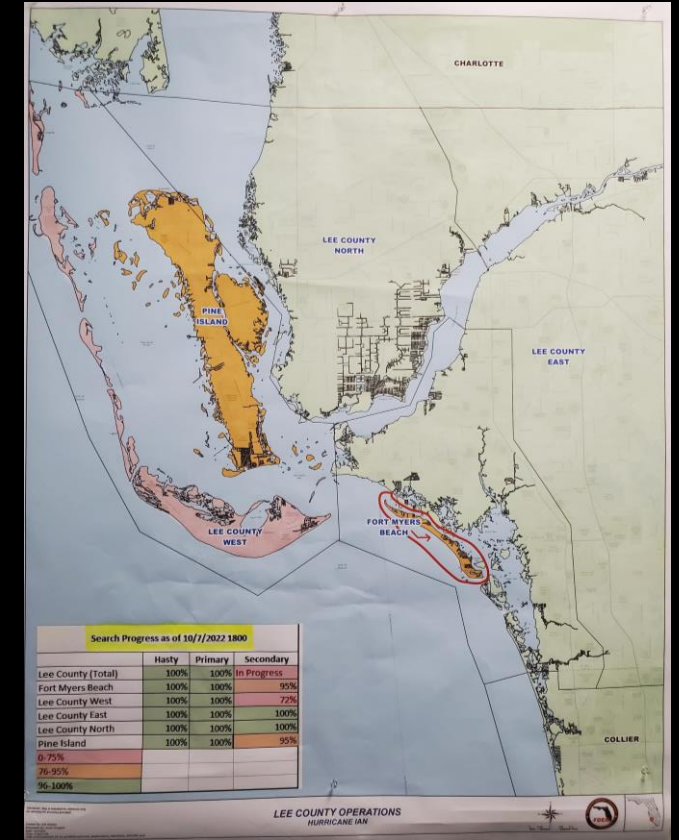
## Assisting Organizations



## Deployed Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team

- Provided veterinary support and HAZMAT decontamination for the 81 USAR Task Force canines.
- Moved with the USAR Task Force Team and Branches 2 and 3.





# IMT Conducted Air Ops Recon Mission to Barrier Islands



## Animal Health Assessment Group - IMT

- 420 total animal health assessments
  - 54 required urgent care
  - 104 required follow up within 48 hours
- 44,634 total animals assessed



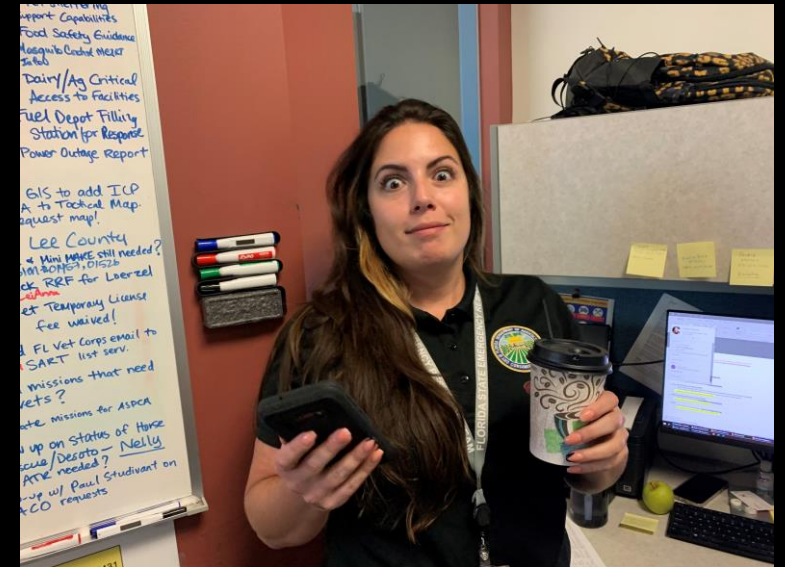


## Donation & Distribution Group - IMT

- Received and distributed ~15,000 units of donated products.
- Thank you to The Greater Good, Wal Mart, Purina, Chewy, PetSmart, and many more for their donations!

# Demobilization

- Demobilized full IMT on October 18, 2022 (19-day deployment).
- November 22, 2022, SEOC moved to Level 2 Activation in support of Hurricane Ian.
- 58 days at Level 1 Activation.



Hey, I just wanted to let you know  
that I found a hole in the fence



# Thank you!

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