



Vol. 2, No. 6, June 2006

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## Corner Store Conversations

One. It is a simple number really. But what does it mean to SART members this month?

Well, it's the current number of tropical cyclones we have experienced this season. If you have somehow missed it, our first storm was Tropical Storm Alberto.

It also happens to be the anniversary number for The Sentinel. Yes, it is hard to believe, but June 2005 was the first monthly newsletter. We have been going strong since then reporting on ever more SART activities.

The number one also indicates the first item in a series. How about our first statewide SART conference slated for 2007? Yes indeed, planning has been gearing up. For an update, see [2007 Conference Update](#) in this month's edition.

One thing that has not changed in a year ... If you have any tips, resources, or story ideas you would like to share, send them our way! (*Even if you just want to say 'hi!' we will take that, too!*)

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## **National Web Site for Pet Sheltering and Preparedness Developed by Local Sheltering Volunteers**

Volunteers for the Pet Friendly Shelters of Charlotte and Sarasota Counties have developed a Web site for use as a national resource for all information regarding emergency planning and sheltering for pets and their people. This site will be a “real time” informational site that will reflect immediate needs as well as providing hundreds of links of information to citizens throughout the country. These volunteers, many having survived a direct impact by Hurricane Charley and the effects of the many hurricane s over the past two years, wanted to help others get information that many had difficulty obtaining. Their experiences have provided a base on which to build this valuable resource.

This site was developed and designed with the idea that EVERYONE, including local, state, and national agencies should have the ability to possess the most current and accurate information available, affording everyone the ability to concentrate on public safety and saving lives in time of emergency. Emergencies happen throughout the country continuously, and as the opening of shelters accepting pets becomes more prevalent the need for public information will increase. Hurricanes account for only a partial percentage of disasters, and this site will also follow fire, flood, blizzard, earthquake, tornado, and other natural or man-made disasters. To our knowledge, there is not a “single” Web site that will offer national information, updated daily, and even hourly in time of emergency.

[www.petfriendlyshelters.org](http://www.petfriendlyshelters.org) is a “work in progress” and it the hope of these dedicated and ambitious volunteers that their efforts and information offered will help the lives of many people and pets. [www/petfriendlyshelters.org](http://www/petfriendlyshelters.org) is one tool that will cross economical and geographical lines and provide what our citizens need the most, information and education. For more information or to submit content please email [petfriendlyshelters@verizon.net](mailto:petfriendlyshelters@verizon.net).

–Donna Kolakowski, Charlotte and Sarasota County Emergency Operations Centers

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## **VETS Awarded Several Grants**



The VETS group at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine has plenty of reasons to celebrate. According to John Haven, VETS Team Leader, the group has secured commitments from the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA), and PetSmart Charities to provide several sums of money. The HSUS has agreed to contribute \$50,000 and PetSmart Charities \$10,000. There is a pending grant to the American Veterinary Medical Association to match the \$20,000 that FVMA has pledged.

The current \$80,000 funding will be used to purchase a tow vehicle, additional trailer, and additional rescue and veterinary equipment to augment current supplies. Paying for training courses such as large animal emergency rescue will also fit the bill for the new funds.

VETS' mission is to provide veterinary care during a disaster or emergency response. The unit is comprised of several teams of trained individuals specializing in companion, livestock, and equine veterinary issues. VETS can integrate staff from the University to include animal care clinicians, epidemiologists, and administrative staff, as well as local practitioners and volunteers. VETS is capable of conducting an all-hazards response with its personnel.

During a deployment, VETS will be an integral part of the ESF17 Incident Management Team (IMT). They will work within the Incident Command System (ICS) structure. VETS' first goal would be to assess veterinary care critical infrastructure such as veterinary hospitals and clinics within the impacted area(s). After assessment, VETS would provide basic to moderate animal care as needed. The team will coordinate with local practitioners, the FVMA, and emergency response agencies in order to assist veterinary practitioners to reestablish service to the community as part of recovery.

For more information, contact John Haven at (352) 392-4700 or [havenj@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu](mailto:havenj@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu).

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## **SART Participates in State Continuity of Operations Exercise**



The continuity of operations plan (COOP) was exercised by the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) May 22-26<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The simulation allows SEOC personnel to test how well they can pick up and move the SEOC and continue operations.

Two situations were being managed as part of the simulation, a dirty bomb incident in Tallahassee and planning for a major hurricane to hit the Tampa Bay area. ESF17 worked on the hurricane, Zoey, through assignments from the Emergency Coordinating Officer (ECO), Dr. Greg Christy. Christy, like other ECOs, was tasked with creating and inputting assignments into the Groove computer system for those operating the ESF desks to respond to.

Drs. Mike Short, Sam Lamb, and Pam Hunter were joined by Elizabeth Wang to work the ESF17 desk. Many calls were made to SART partners and other agencies to work through the simulation. Assignments included evacuating zoo animals, requesting federal assets, and using EMAC.

Thank you to all those who contributed to a great learning experience!

*Pictured above (L to R) Dr. Pam Hunter, Dr. Mike Short, Dr. Sam Lamb, Elizabeth Wang, and Dr. Greg Christy.*

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## **Members Only: Advisory Board Member Directory Available Online**

An online directory of those serving as SART Advisory Board members is now available. The directory cleared internal testing before being launched. Some Board members are not yet listed; adjustments are being made to add missing members. It is the hope that general members will be better able to identify who to contact from a Partner Agency about SART issues related to that agency.

The directory is accessible under Member Only Information within the Members Area.

You must be a registered SART member to view the directory.

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## **Large Animal Emergency Rescue Training Conducted at UF CVM**



The VETS team sponsored a Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue training on May 3-5, 2006. Conducted by Drs. Tomas and Rebecca Gimenez of South Carolina, over 20 people participated, as seen in the "class picture." Participants ranged from vet technicians to veterinarians to people just plain interested in large animal rescue.

Live animals were utilized in the demonstrations so that participants would receive hands-on experience working with the equipment used for large animal rescue on a breathing, moving animal. The Gimenez's three horses, Tornado, Angel, and Ariel, were lifted and slid places using tools like the Anderson sling, an A-frame, a crane, and a plastic glide. A night rescue was also performed.

A good time was had by all during the intense three day session; many wished it were a longer course. The entire collection of pictures from the event were graciously provide by Ms. Tori Miller; these will be available on the SART Web site shortly.

A special thank you extends to Dr. Dana Zimmer and John Haven for arranging the training.

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## 2007 Conference Update

A short list has been compiled of potential sites for the 2007 Florida SART Conference; sites in Orlando and St. Petersburg beach will be visited during the last week of June.

Potential workshops and general sessions have been brainstormed consulting the recommendations made by participants who completed surveys at 2005's regional training events. An overlying theme of teamwork and teambuilding will guide associated conference activities.

If you have any ideas for workshops, activities, or speakers, contact Liz Wang.

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## FEMA.gov Gets a Makeover

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has launched a completely reengineered Web site, [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). The new site has a restructured navigation system designed to make it easier for citizens, emergency personnel, businesses, and federal, state, and local government agencies to quickly find the information they need on FEMA's disaster training, preparation, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts and services.

In developing the new site, FEMA conducted a year-long usability study of their Web site and implemented recommendations from victims of disasters and those involved in disaster response and recovery efforts. The FEMA Web site will be the first in the U. S. Department of Homeland Security to roll out the department's new Web branding.

To learn more about the development of the new FEMA.gov design, visit [www.fema.gov/media/newhomepage.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/media/newhomepage.shtm).

– As reported in *Disaster Research*, 450, Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado, Boulder

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## National Park Service Fire Timeline

The National Park Service Fire and Aviation Division has prepared this presentation on fire management history. It includes a timeline from 1600 to present on large fire and fatalities, operational inventions and developments, policy and law, wildland fire operations, fire quotes and perspectives, and research, education, and public awareness. Visit [www.nps.gov/fire/utility/uti\\_timeline.html](http://www.nps.gov/fire/utility/uti_timeline.html) to learn more.

– As reported in *Disaster Research*, 452, Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado, Boulder

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## **Trivia Contest!**

***Winner receives Florida SART goodie bag***

Since 1953, Atlantic tropical storms have been named from lists originated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Hurricane Center (NHC). These lists are now maintained and updated by an international committee of the World Meteorological Organization.

Name retirement is saved for storms so deadly or costly that the future use of the names would be inappropriate for reasons of sensitivity. Five names were retired from the 2005 season and will not be used again.

Correctly name three of the five and win a goodie bag of SART stuff!

Answers must be submitted electronically to Liz Wang ([wange@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:wange@doacs.state.fl.us)) and be as follows:

- Subject line should read *SART Trivia Contest Entry*
- List the three guesses you have
- Provide full name, email, AND regular street address so that if you win, the goodie bag can be sent to you
- Send by July 12, 2006

### **Additional Rules:**

- One entry per person
- Incomplete entries will be discarded
- Entries must be received by July 12, 2006
- Not responsible for entries not received or filtered out as spam
- In the event only one entry is correct, they will be the winner
- If multiple entries are correct, they will be pooled and one winner selected

The winner will be announced in July's newsletter. Happy hunting!

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## **About the SART Sentinel**

***Editor: Elizabeth Wang, SART Coordinator, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry***

***Associate Editor: Gregory S. Christy, DVM, State ESF-17 Coordinator, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry***

The SART SENTINEL is an e-mail newsletter prepared monthly by Elizabeth Wang and the staff of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team. Past issues of the Sentinel are archived on the Florida SART Web Site, [www.flkart.org](http://www.flkart.org).

If you have a story or photo that you would like to have considered for publication in *The SART SENTINEL*, contact the Editors.

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## Tip of the Month!



### ***EMAC, What is it?***

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is an important component of disaster response and recovery and many do not know about it. EMAC is used for any type of disaster.

Take a moment to learn about EMAC at their Web site by clicking [here](#).