State Emergency Operations Center

Constructed in 1996
Built to withstand 200 MPH winds
Back-up water/electrical and communications systems
Mission Statement

Working together to ensure that Florida is prepared to respond to emergencies, recover from them and mitigate their impact...
Emergency Management

- Four phases
- All disasters are local
  - State
  - Non-governmental organizations (NGO)
  - Federal
Does Florida Have a Hurricane Problem???
Florida: an All-Hazards State
Natural Hazards

- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Floods
- Drought
- Wildfires
- Severe Thunderstorms
- Severe Heat and Cold

Technological Hazards

Criminal or Hostile Acts

- Terrorism (WMD, Bio, Agro)
- Mass Migration
- Radiological (REP)
- Hazardous Materials
- Special Events (Super Bowl, Bike Week, RNC)
- Transportation Accidents
FDEM Operational Regions
Florida Statute Chapter 252

State Emergency Management Act
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)

- Sets the “Overall Framework”
- Provides guidance to state and local officials on procedures, organization and responsibilities
- Adopts a functional approach that combines the types of assistance to be provided under each Emergency Support Function (e.g., Transportation, Health)
FDEM Staff

All Staff Have 2 Roles:

1. Day to day programmatic role
2. Disaster Activation Role (when State EOC is activated)
State Emergency Response Team

- Made up of state and volunteer agencies
- Grouped by Emergency Support Function
- 18 Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)
- Emergency Coordinating Officers (ECO)
Emergency Support Functions

ESF 1: Transportation (DOT)
ESF 2: Communications (DMS)
ESF 3: Public Works (DOT)
ESF 4: Fire Fighting (DFS)
ESF 5: Info and Planning (DEM)
Emergency Support Functions

- **ESF 6**: Mass Care (DBPR)
- **ESF 7**: Resource Support (DMS)
- **ESF 8**: Health and Medical (DOH)
- **ESF 9**: Urban Search and Rescue (DFS)
- **ESF 10**: Hazardous Materials (DEP)
Emergency Support Functions

• **ESF 11: Food and Water (DOACS)**
• **ESF 12: Energy (PSC)**
• **ESF 13: Military Support (DMA)**
• **ESF 14: Public Information (EOG)**
Emergency Support Functions

- **ESF 15**: Volunteers and Donations (VolFL)
- **ESF 16**: Law Enforcement (FDLE)
- **ESF 17**: Animal Protection & Agriculture (DOACS)
- **ESF 18**: Business and Economic Stabilization (OTED & DOR)
State Emergency Response Team

- Broken up into Sections and Branches
- All Branches fall under Sections
- All Sections fall under SERT Chief
- SERT Chief under SCO and Governor
Operations Section

Emergency Services
Human Services
Infrastructure Support
Operations Support
Logistics

- Base Camps
- Logistical Staging Areas
- Asset Coordination
State Logistics Response Center

- 200,000 sq ft warehouse in Orlando
- Used to store commodities needed for disaster response
- 20,000 sq ft of office space
- Can accommodate 120 tractor trailers
- Helicopter LZ
- Emergency back-up generator
State Logistics Response Center
Florida Recovery Office

Recovery and Mitigation Projects from 2004-05 Hurricane Seasons

- FEMA/DEM staff co-located in Lake Mary Florida.
- $4.5 million in recovery and mitigation projects have been closed out to date.
- Goal of office is to quickly disburse federal assistance grants to affected residents and county and municipal governments.
SERT Activation Levels

- **Level 3**: Monitoring
- **Level 2**: Partial Activation of SERT
- **Level 1**: Full-Scale Activation
State Watch Office

- **State of Florida’s Watch Center**
- Staffed 24/7/365
- In constant communication with Florida’s 67 County Warning Points and EM Staff, SERT members, Nuclear Power Plants, Federal Partners and Governor’s Office
- Where all incidents start and finish
- Operations, Plans, Meteorology…others as needed
State Watch Office

Types of incidents worked in the SWO

- Aircraft
- Hazmat
- Bomb Threats
- Domestic Security Threats
- White Powder
- Mass Migration
- Petroleum Spills/Wastewater
- Radiological Events
- Severe Weather
Information and Planning

Intelligence Gathering and Analysis

Incident Action Plan

Situation Reports

GIS, Meteorology, Recon and Technical Support

Information Distribution

- SEOC
- Counties
- Agencies and Responders
Local Ownership

All disasters start and end at the LOCAL level

State and Federal officials should be ready to provide support and resources when local agencies are overwhelmed
State of Florida
Initial Response

Incident Occurs
Threat is Present

Responsible agency notifies

SWO

Operations Officer
State / local / federal agencies

GET A PLAN!
FloridaDisaster.org
Under the Stafford Act and F.S. Chapter 252, only the Elected Leadership has the authority to Declare Emergencies. Only the Governor may request assistance from the President.
Emergencies vs. Disasters

• An Emergency has more Responders than Survivors
• A Disaster has more Survivors than Responders
Priorities in the First 72 hours

Secure

Search

72 Hours

Stabilize
Vision: “Failure is not an Option”
The Rules

1. Meet the needs of the Survivors
2. Take care of the Responders
3. See Rule One
Standing Orders

1. Establish Communication with Areas Impacted
2. Search and Rescue /Security
3. Meet Basic Human Needs
   1. Medical
   2. Water
   3. Food
   4. Shelter
   5. Emergency Fuel
   6. Ice is a distant sixth (Unless its really hot)
4. Restore Critical Infrastructure
5. Open Schools / Local Businesses
6. Begin the Recovery
Disaster Response

- Cost Effective
- Mistake Free
- Fast

- Pick One
Changing Outcomes

- Focus on the outcome you want
- Plan the mission to achieve that outcome
- Execute the plan
- Monitor the outcome and adjust

“Failure is not an option”
Use a Sledge Hammer

- It rarely pays to be subtle
- Better to have too much than not enough
- Push resources into the area of impact, don’t wait for requests
- A quick and overwhelming response is better than a well planned and thought out response
- If you wait until you have all facts, it becomes harder to change the outcome
The Importance of Flexible Plans

• Neither the Disaster or the Survivors have read your plan, so don’t be surprised when they don’t do what the plan says

• The same goes for elected officials, brief them on the plan before the next disaster
Emergency Support Function 17

- **Purpose**: To coordinate the state’s response for animal and agricultural issues in emergency or disaster
- **Lead agency**: DOACS
- **Supporting agencies**: DOH, FWC, UF College of Vet Med & Institute of Food/Ag Science; USDA and Volunteer Organizations
Emergency Support Function

Roles:

- Preparedness: Coordinate planning & training of personnel through State Agricultural Response Team
- Response: Staff EOC, support SERT and local governments
- Recovery: Staff disaster field office support locals
- Mitigation: Identify animal and ag critical infrastructure and assist with mitigation
Emergency Support Function 17

Opportunities:
• No lack of disasters in FL; key is proactive partnership
• Vulnerable to both Ag disaster and agro-terrorism
• New Food Emergency Response Plan
• Regional training and exercises
Semper Gumby!
(Always Flexible!)