

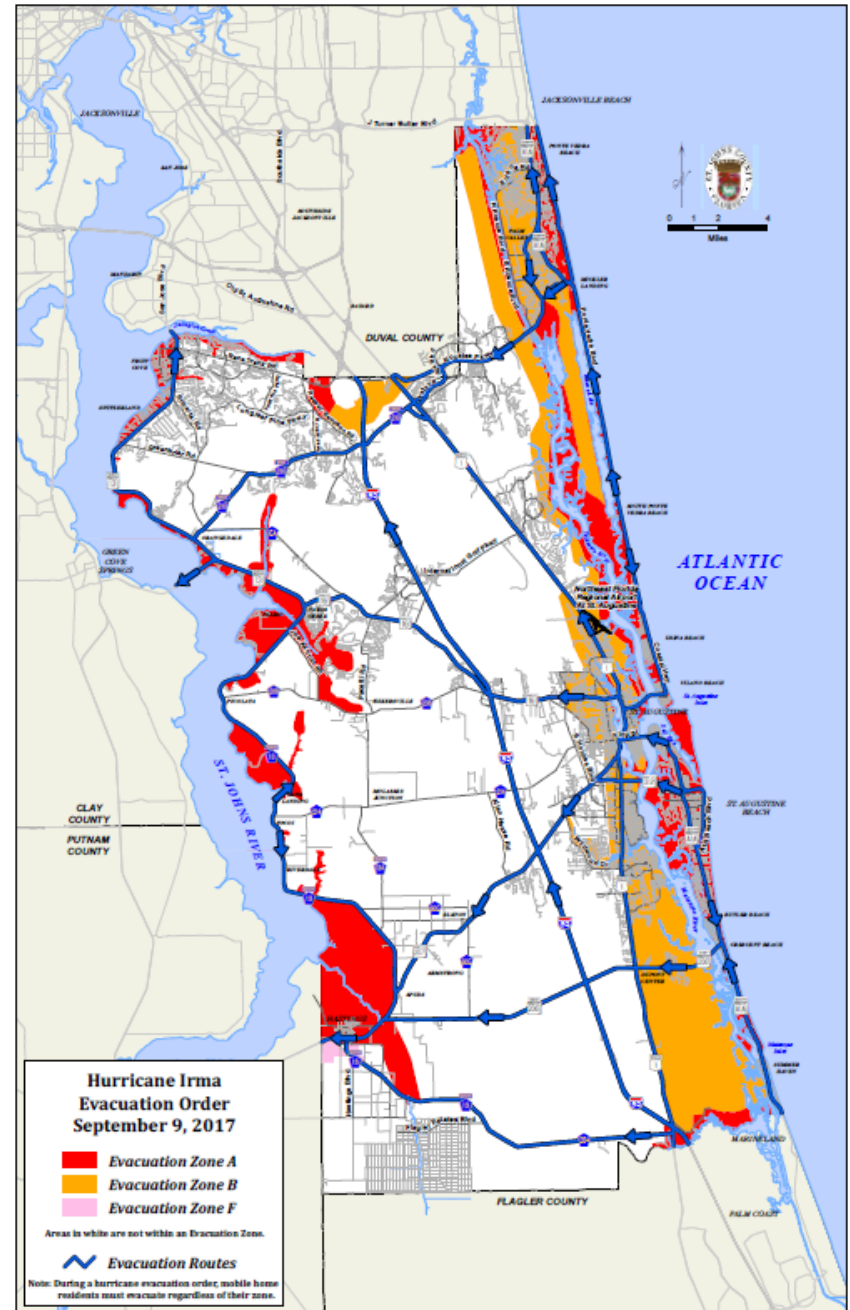


# Hurricane Irma: What did we learn this time

Paul Studivant  
Division Manager  
St. Johns County Animal Control

# Hurricane Irma Evacuations September 9, 2017

- Evacuation of Coastal and River Zones A and B
  - 149,000 residents



# Shelter Set-up Begins

- Six Shelters were identified to open on Saturday morning:
  - 3 General Population
  - 2 Pet Friendly
  - 1 Special Needs



- St. Johns County Animal Control maintains 2 trailers w/ crates, bowls, and shelter supplies. The mini-mare housed at the St. Johns County Pet Center was also utilized.







# Saturday, September 9, 2017

- Shelters opened at 6:00 am Saturday morning.
  - Transportation to shelters began simultaneously.
- Shelter Registration forms were customized for Pet Friendly Shelter.
  - Photos of Pet and Owner were attached to registration form.
  - Owner and crate were tagged with numbered arm bands.



# Special Needs Pets

- Special Needs Client pets transported from Special Needs Shelter to Pet Friendly Shelter.
  - Special needs clients pets were registered on a yellow form at the special needs shelter, and then transported to the Pet Friendly Shelters.
  - Pets were kept in an designated area of Pet Friendly Shelter for easy identification and to be cared for by Animal Control Staff.



# Operational Improvements as a result of lessons learned from Matthew.....

- Pet Containment and Care –
  - Animal Control set up all crates anticipating most pets arriving uncrated
  - Bowls, litter, litter pans, and food was on standby at each shelter
  - Owners were allowed to care for and visit their pets as often as they wanted too
- Shelter clients were more accustomed to the rules of the pet friendly shelter as thus, there were fewer issues



# Inside our Shelters....





# St. Johns County sheltered 180 Pets during Hurricane Irma



# Post Disaster Operations

- Shelters closed on Tuesday, September 12 – remaining shelter clients relocated to post disaster shelter.
  - Pets not allowed in post disaster shelter.
- St. Johns County Animal Control housed 7 animals for displaced families.





# Why we were successful

- Hurricane Matthew – October 2016
  - Identified problems encountered during Hurricane Matthew and resolved as many as possible in the short 11 months before Irma
- Strong Partnership with St. Johns County School District, Animal Control, and Emergency Management!!!



# Opportunities for Improvement

- Additional training for Shelter Staff in regards to ADA requirements for Service Animals.
  - Emotional Support Animal vs. Service Animal – how do we differentiate?
- Homeless population with pets
  - Keep pets with owners, transport owners to pet friendly shelter
- Special Needs Shelter clients with Service Animals
  - Assign Animal Control Vet Tech to Special Needs Shelter to assist in the care of Service Animals



# Pets weren't the only ones needing assistance .....

- Around 7 am the morning of September 11<sup>th</sup> with Irma still raging, Animal Control received a call from St. Augustine Wild Reserve
- A Tiger cage had been compromised by a falling tree and they needed help cutting the tree and moving the tiger before it escaped.





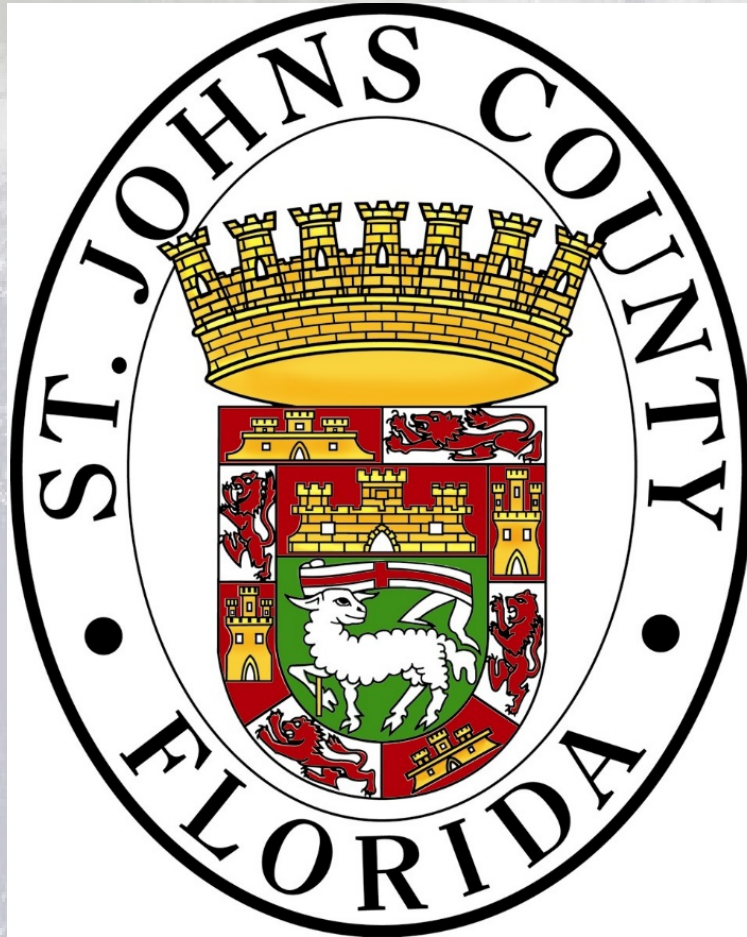
# Tiger Rescue

- St. Johns County Animal Control, Sheriff's Office and Fire Rescue responded to assist the Wild Animal Reserve
- The tree could not be safely removed so the Tiger was tranquilized and moved to a secure cage on the other side of the property





# Thank you



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