

Hillsborough County Deployment Workshop “Hurricane Audrey”



Thank you to all who played a role, but special thanks to MJ Maruca and Shayla Prezas, and the Fairground – I’m just here to tell the story 😊

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Hillsborough County Deployment Workshop

Learning Objectives for this presentation are:

- What was is it?
- Who participated?
- What was done?
- What was tested?
- What was learned?
- What is next?
- How can you participate next time?

What was it?

Deployment exercise to a county, in simulation of an EOC request for assistance, involving sheltering of:

- People – both healthy and special needs
- Pets – both healthy and sick
- Pets – both owned and unowned
- Pets – both large and small – horses and dogs – real... and stuffed cats...

Who Participated?

- FL SART
 - FDACS – Ag Law
 - FDACS – Animal Industry
 - FDACS – Food Safety
 - SARC
 - Kansas SART
 - UF College of Veterinary Medicine
 - Washington State University CVM
 - Mississippi State University CVM
 - City of Houston DEM
 - Hillsborough County Veterinary Technician Program
 - FVMA Vet Corps
- FEMA
 - NMETS
 - Logistics

FDACS AG LAW Response Unit



Who Participated – Continued

- Hillsborough County
 - Fairgrounds
 - Office of Emergency Management
 - ARES/Ham Radio
 - Pet Resource Center
 - Red Cross
 - Medical Reserve Corps/Public Health
 - Cowboy Church & Other volunteers to be 'victims'
 - Public Schools
 - HART Line Bus
 - Sunshine Bus Line
 - Special Operations/HAZMAT
 - Rapid Response Team
 - Human Society

ARES/Ham Radio Tested



Who Participated – Continued

- Also had participants from other counties:
 - Orange County Animal Services,
 - Lee County Emergency Management
- In total we had 151 responders, from over 30 agencies!!!
- This is why we train and practice ICS... speaking common language, common structure, efficient use of resources, under one leader, and one Incident Action Plan

What Was Done?

- Transporting owned people and their pets, by buses from the 'collection centers' (there were 2), to an improvised people and animal shelter
- Medical triage for the animals was conducted
- Pets and people where sheltered
- Special needs people were also addressed
- Decon – still a work in progress... for people and their pets...
- People engaged in the care of their animals
- People and Pets reunified at the end
- FEMA NMETS system used to track the people and pets

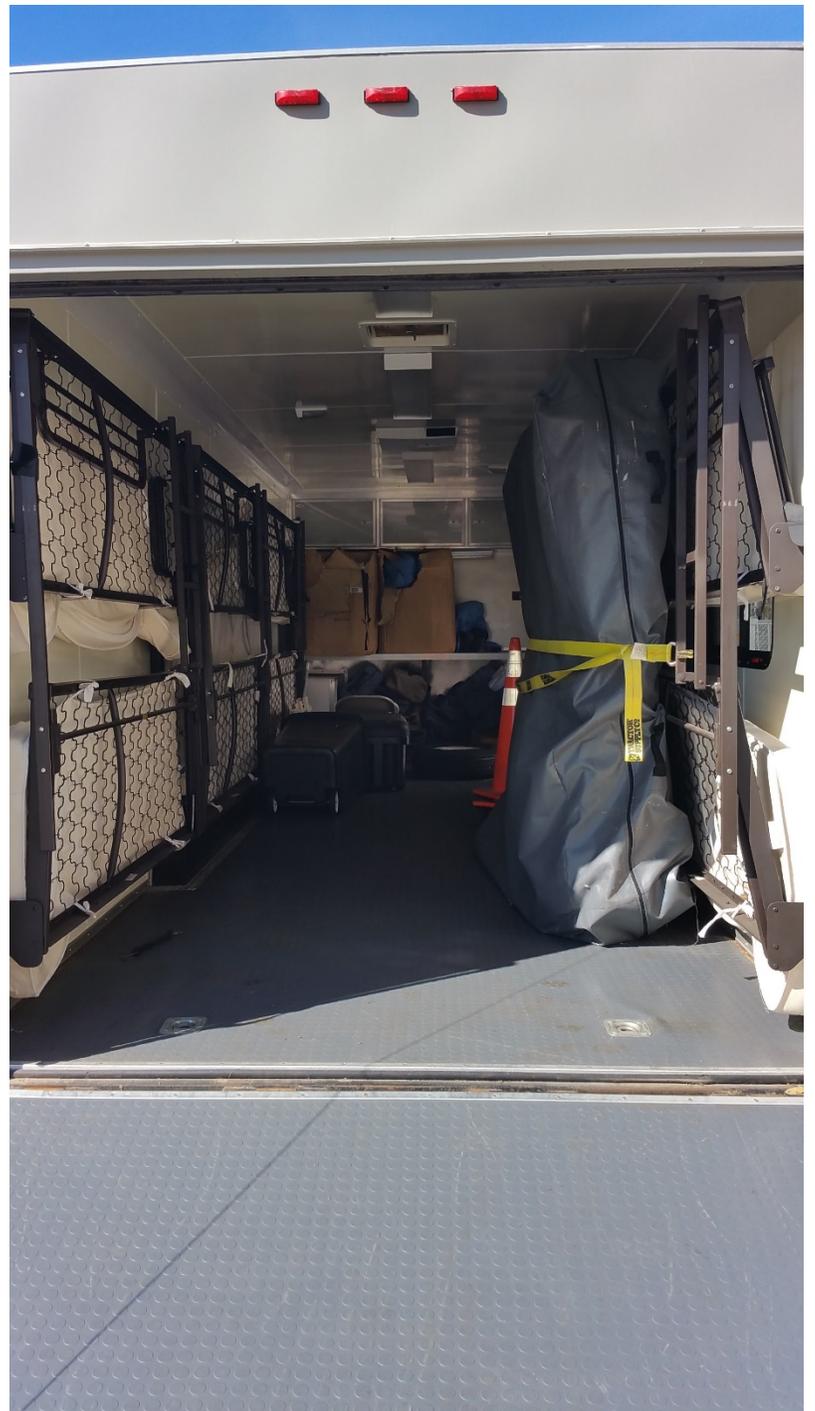
Bus Lines



What Was Done?

- Teams deployed – self contained to the fairground as if at a real hurricane
- SARC deployed shelter equipment, include the new magnum kennel system
- Agencies that never worked together before – integrated through ICS
- As we've moved this around the state, it allows other members from teams who've never participated to be able to

Camped – with Tents, Bunk Beds, etc.



What Was Done?

- After several meetings, and months and months of planning....
- Week of the exercise, FEMA cages arrived from logistics test
- Fri was a walk through of the exercise by the Incident Management Team, and the team leaders from all of the major agencies responding, and ensured everyone knew their role
- Fri night Shayla as the Plans Section Chief updated the IAP

What Was Done?

- Sat AM a pet friendly sheltering demo was conducted at a local school
- Sat Afternoon all the responders checked in, joined their teams, and a walk through of the exercise was conducted
- Sat Afternoon training for policies and procedures for teams
- Sat Night? Well, “What happens in camp, stays in camp!” 😊
- Sat Night into Sunday AM – Shayla update the IAP again...
- Sunday AM – full speed exercise by everyone
- Sunday afternoon – “Hot Wash”
- Sunday Night... Shayla slept really well!

What Was Tested?

- Exercised the FEMA logistics stockpile to learn what documentation is required between the requesting county, the state, and FEMA, and what the turn around time was for the paperwork, and for the movement of the cages.
- Exercised FEMA NMETS (National Mass Emergency Tracking System)
 - How to track people and the animals and reunify has been a national problem.
 - FL SART has tried other systems with other agencies and never been happy.
 - This was the first large scale attempt to use the FEMA system to track people and their pets

NMETS at Collection Station



What Was Tested?

- First time we ever tried to handle owned and un-owned pets in the same shelter
 - Hurricane Matthew showed us that people would show up at any shelter, and not follow instructions whether a 'disaster shelter' or a 'pet friendly shelter' or just a 'human shelter', or a 'special needs shelter', so we felt we should train for this added complexity
- Challenged Red Cross and DOH/MRC with special needs people who 'aren't on their list' or following their policies because they evacuated from across county lines – still need to help them

Red Cross



What Was Tested?

- First time we actually put people and pets on the bus and moved them... previously simulated their movement and had the ‘victims’ and the pets magically show up at the shelter
 - Buses and animal control had to implement their real policies for managing cleanliness and control on the buses
- First time SARC deployed the new SART magnum kennels – logistics and training
- First time UF CVM VETS team integrated members from Washington State CVM

Bus Transport



What Was Tested?

- First time UF CVM VETS team integrated members from Washington State CVM or Hillsborough Veterinary Technology School
 - UF VETS tested policies and procedures to allow rapid 'bolt on' of DVMs, students, etc. from a variety of agencies to allow scaling of VETS team, as well as allow extended sustainment of the team in the field
- Tests workflow dynamics for the rapid filling of the shelter – what is the right ratio of check in stations for the shelter, the medical triage, photo, etc. to get the animals and people in the shelter with minimal delays/no choke points

Shelter and Medical Check In – One Flow



What Was Tested?

- Local IMT to scale up and manage a large infusion of resources and integrate into an Incident Action Plan
- Engaged owners in the care of their pets – reduces the burden on the shelter team, allowing for lower staffing levels, yet happier pets and owners since they are involved in their care – and how to manage this flow
- People and Pets all had scenarios, with some pets having a variety of issues requiring more involved medical care with the new UF Mobile Surgery Hospital (thank you PetSmart Charities!), or even evacuation
- Making it more realistic, we injected cats (though stuffed) for the first time
- Decon of animals – low level

NMETS – Barcodes – Stickers – Cats???



What Was Learned?

- FEMA logistics request took a long time, even with everyone knowing it is coming... still an effective resource, but can't be the first line of defense, which supports FL SART regional capabilities development of staging over 1,000 cages in "MARE, CAMET, etc." around the state
- FEMA NMETS team was AWESOME!
 - Came in with a team, even a software contractor, to help understand how we wanted to use it, came up with ways to make it work, and took notes to improve its use with the next upgrade which we will hopefully use next year at the next exercise
 - WORKED AS PROMISED! Very easy to use, can operate many locations at one time with centralized reporting – this is the future

What Was Learned?

- Workflow was significantly improved over previous years, with adequate ratio of triage, shelter intake, medical intake, medical exam, runners, etc. Only choke point was pictures of owners and their pets and it was just a slight slow down
- Integration of the teams with UF was seamless – both from Hillsborough County CVT School and Washington State U CVM, as well as the FVMA Vet Corps practitioners
- New mobile hospital was great
- New magnum cages were awesome!
- Red Cross and DOH/MRC did a great job with the people

Photo of Owner and Pet At Shelter Entrance



Medical Compound



Magnum Kennels



Hillsborough Rapid Response Team - Fencing



What Was Learned?

- Use of the buses, their plans to protect the seats, etc. all went extremely well
- Having the people involved in their pet's care went very well, though challenging to exercise on a compressed schedule
- Decon of large and small needs a lot of work:
 - Technique, PPE, etc.
 - Continued challenges of working with teams from different shifts through the planning phase to actual implementation

Horses Too!



What Was Learned?

- The ability to house 'owned' and 'unowned' animals under one roof with separate protocols, routes, etc. was very successful
- The injection of the cats was handled well, though did raise some questions to be addressed in the future for all involved
- Thanks to Shayla going without sleep for the weekend, the local IMT managed the inflow of teams, updated documents, and had appropriate briefings

What is Next?

- FL SART purchased 3 caches of the NMETS scanners and will station them strategically around the state for use in the future
- FL SART will work on the issue to come up with barcode options for the animals, particularly for getting wet and how best to have with different species
- FL SART will make decon a bigger focus in the future
- FL SART will work with FEMA on the next upgrades of NMETS
- FL SART and FL Mass Care will work with FL EOC for full deployment of NMETS at the state

Shelter



What is Next?

- FL SART will begin the planning cycle for the next exercise...
- Miami Dade has already indicated they would like to be the next host county
- Goal of late early June 2017 to determine time and place

How Can You Participate?

- Disaster response is best done as a team – be part of a responding team:
 - If you are part of Animal Control, contacting SARC and coming under their umbrella
 - If you are a private DVM, then coming under FMVA Vet Corps
 - If you are county DEM, then we'll get you plugged into MD DEM
 - If you are county extension, we'll get you plugged into MD IFAS/Extension
- There is a need for evaluators in addition to responders, and that function will be coordinated through MD DEM
- Watch the SART Sentinel for more information

One of 3 Medical Tents with 2 Stations Each

(Left to right) VET Corps DVM, Pet Resource Center animal runner, UF DVM in the rear, Hillsborough CVT students, and WSU CVM student in right front



Questions?

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