THE SENTINEL
NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

Vol. 10, No. 8
August 2014

2015 Florida SART Planning Meeting

The tentative seminar and workshop agenda for the 4th Florida SART Planning Meeting has been crafted around the theme *SART – Turning Visions into Action*. The meeting will begin at 1:00 pm on Monday, January 12 and will conclude by noon on Wednesday. The host hotel is the Embassy Suites, Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road, Kissimmee 34746.

SART Planning Meeting Awards Luncheon, Clearwater Beach, January 2007

Monday, January 12

1:00	Call to Order – David Perry, FDACS/SART Co-chair
	Welcome – Richard Collins, Director, Osceola Co. Emergency Mgt.
	Greetings – Dr. Lisa Conti, FDOH
1:30	SERT Program – Bryan Koon, Director, FDEM
2:00	Brevard County Large Animal Plan – Lacie Davis, Coordinator, Brevard Co.
	Emergency Mgt.
2:30	New Animal Courses – Dr. Matt Hersom, Dept. of Animal Sciences, UF
3:00	Break
3:15	Social Media in an Emergency – David Merrick, Director, Center for Disaster
	Risk Policy, FSU
6:00	Attendee Gathering

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Tuesday, January 13

8:00 Announcements – David Perry, FDACS/SART Co-chair
8:15 Radiological Planning – John Williamson, Administrator, Bureau of Radiation Control, FDOH
11:30 SART Award Luncheon
1:30 Radiological Planning continued
5:00 Adjourn

Wednesday, January 14

8:00 Announcements – David Perry, FDACS/SART Co-chair
8:15 "Don't Pack a Pest" – FDACS/DPI
9:30 The Lee County Animal Decontamination Workshop – John Haven, Director, College of Veterinary Medicine, UF & Donna Ward, former Director Animal Services, Lee Co.
10:30 Break
10:45 Federal Partner Reports – USDA
12:00 Adjourn

Fall SART Advisory Board Meeting Scheduled

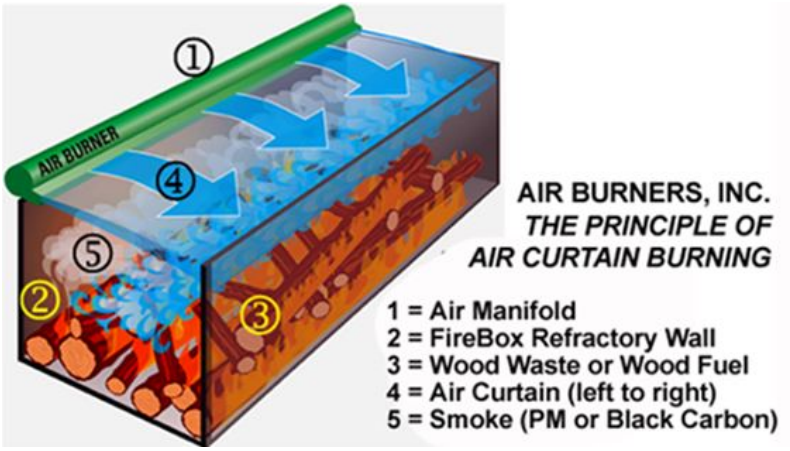
The next SART Advisory Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16th. Advisory Board meetings begin at 10 a.m. and are generally concluded by 1 p.m. The September meeting site is the Alachua Regional Service Center, 14101 Hwy 441, Suite 200, Alachua. The agenda is as follows:

10:00 Welcome and Introductions – David Perry
10:10 New State Veterinarian Introduced – David Perry
10:20 SART 2015 Planning Meeting – Joe Kight
10:40 Break
11:00 National Veterinary Stockpile Exercise – Dr. Greg Christy
11:20 Florida Horse Park Update – Stephanie Hagins
11:40 The LECAL Training Project – Dr. Joan Dusky and Frankie Hall
12:00 Bovine Emergency Response Plan – David Perry
12:30 Board Member Reports – All
1:00 Adjourn

Response and Recovery Tools: Air Curtain Incinerator

An air curtain incinerator operates by "forcefully projecting a curtain of air across an open chamber or pit in which combustion occurs." It can be constructed above or below ground, and with or without refractory walls and floor.

Think of an air curtain incinerator principally as a pollution control device whose primary objective is to reduce the amount of ash and smoke emitted from openly burning wood waste. The incinerators themselves do not burn anything; they simply control the results of something burning.



A secondary benefit is the great speed at which waste burns – often 10 times as fast as an open burn. Containing and extinguishing the fire, if necessary, are also fast and relatively easy. The benefits of such incinerators in the aftermath of a tornado or a hurricane are obvious.

The operation of an air curtain incinerator is fairly simple:

1. load wood waste
2. add an accelerant such as diesel fuel
3. ignite the waste
4. when the fire is well started (about 15 minutes), start the blower to provide the "air curtain"
5. continue to add wood waste consistent with the rate of burn (small machines burn 1-2 tons per hour; large machines 10+ tons per hour)

Front view of an air curtain incinerator at 9 Mile Road staging area debris cleanup site in Pensacola after Hurricane Ivan, September 2005. (State Archives of Florida)

Air curtain incinerators are sometimes referred to as "air curtain destructors." Alan Schapiro, PE – Mechanical Engineer, writing for Forest Service USDA recommends them for fuel reduction in "urban interface areas" although they may not, he says, "be as cost competitive in areas where broadcast and pile burning are acceptable."

Summarizing, Schapiro says advantages of an air curtain incinerator may include:

1. Lower smoke emissions compared to pile or broadcast burning.
2. Burns a greater variety of materials from green fuel to red slash.
3. Reduces fire risk and outbreak of insect problems.
4. Operates with fewer restrictions on weather and burn conditions.

(http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/pubs/html/02511317/02511317.htm#CONCLUSIONS)

Under the Radar

Just Because …

Just because there have been no hurricanes smashing into the Sunshine State the past couple of years does not mean that planning stops and waits. Here are three photos from the August meeting of the SART Steering Committee.

	Richard Miranda discusses budgetary issues, needs and resource allocation with Sue Rantuccio.
	Laura Bevan meets with John Haven about animal response training and deployment issues.
	David Perry and Dr. Joan Dusky plan for new LECAL training options (law enforcement and animal issues).

New Florida State Veterinarian

Dr. Michael Short is the new Florida State Veterinarian and Director, Division of Animal Industry, FDACS. As the State Veterinarian and Division Director, Short is responsible for the department's animal disease control and prevention efforts, which include investigating outbreaks, providing laboratory diagnostics and containing the spread of animal diseases.

"Dr. Short has more than 16 years of veterinary experience, 10 years of service at the department and an invaluable understanding of the agriculture community he will serve," said Commissioner Adam Putnam. "Dr. Short is a proven leader in the areas of livestock disease prevention, control and eradication and will lead our efforts to safeguard Florida's agriculture industry and its livestock."

Dr. Short holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a doctorate in veterinary medicine, both from the University of Florida.

Florida SARC Schedules Courses

Small Animal Emergency Sheltering – Awareness Level

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition is teaching this course to promote effective response for animals during disasters. Registration is required, but due to grants from Florida Division of Emergency Management and U.S. Department of Homeland Security, no fee is charged for attendance. This course is certified by FDEM as course code FL-003-RESP.

Date & Time: Sunday, August 10, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Location: American Red Cross Capital Area Chapter
1115 Easterwood Drive, Tallahassee

Date & Time: Saturday, September 27, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Location: Escambia County Emergency Operations Center
6575 North W Street, Pensacola

Florida SARC *Train the Trainer* Workshop

If you have been an assistant trainer or administrative support person at a SARC class or if you have taken the SARC Awareness Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering course and thought, "I would love to help teach this course," here is your opportunity, says Florida SARC Director of Training Consie von Gontard. SARC will hold a *Train the Trainer* class for those who would like to learn to be a Lead Instructor or to assist in teaching this class. Instructors and trained responders are needed in every region of Florida. [Illustrating the interest in such a class, registration filled rapidly. SARC accepted registration for a standby list but notes that additional courses will be scheduled, funding permitting. This course has been completed by the time this newsletter "goes to press," but the item is included for informational purposes and demonstrates the growth and development of SARC.]

Date & Time: Saturday, August 9 (9:00 am to 5:00 pm) to Sunday,
August 10 (9:00 am to 3:00 pm)
Location: Cat Depot, 2542 17th Street, Sarasota

For information and registration go to http://www.flsarc.org/Training.html or contact Melissa Forberg training@flsarc.org (352) 658-1224, Pam Burns pamburnssarc@gmail.com, Andy Bass training@flsarc.org or Consie Von Gontard training@flsarc.org.

Animal Fighting & Cruelty Investigations

The Duval County Sheriff's Office, Jacksonville Animal Care & Protective Services and The Humane Society of the United States are hosting a **free** 7-hour course on Animal Cruelty and Fighting Investigations for Jacksonville area law enforcement, animal/humane and code enforcement officers. Identical courses will be held back-to-back on August 18th and 19th so officers can choose the training date that best suits their schedule.

Topics to be covered
A. Background on dogfighting, cockfighting and illegal animal abuse in Florida
B. How dogfighting and cockfighting are associated with other felony crimes
C. Investigating a cruelty or fighting complaint: first response to filing charges
D. Recognizing evidence of dogfighting, cockfighting and illegal cruelty
E. Interviews, warrants, and evidence collection as related to animal crimes
F. Knowing, interpreting, and applying cruelty and fighting laws in Florida

Date: August 18th or 19th
Hours: 0800 - 1600
Location: Florida State College at Jacksonville- North Campus (main auditorium)
4501 Capper Road, Jacksonville, FL 32218
Registration: Seating is limited so please register no later than August 11th by emailing Rebecca C. Pickens at rpickens@humanesociety.org

Thanks to Pam Burns, Florida SARC for the "heads-up" about this course.

Mini-MARE Package Sets Headed to Regions

SART has positioned Mobile Animal Response Equipment (MARE) units, livestock panels and Large Animal Technical Rescue Trailers (LATR) to strategic locations in each of the state's seven Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) regions. MARE units are designed to be used as region-wide assets and a map of their location as well as local contact information and several photos of equipment in use are online at http://www.flsart.org/RegionalEquipment/.

Collapsible shelters and Mare units were the subject of a great deal of attendee interest at the January 2011 SART Planning Meeting in Altamonte Springs.

To supplement the full MARE units, SART is positioning "Mini-MARE" units in the regions: one each in Lee, Hillsborough, St. Johns, Brevard, Dixie, Okaloosa, Citrus and a back-up unit in the SART compound, Tallahassee. The Mini-MARE is a smaller more mobile unit – enclosed trailer, 100 bowls and small animal crates of various sizes and a 20x10-foot shelter – but without a generator and some of the miscellaneous items in the full MARE: mops and buckets, for example.

If an individual or organization is in need of this equipment, prior approval needs to be obtained from the Emergency Management Director in the requesting county. A request may then be made with the contacts below to obtain the equipment for use.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to Joe Kight at (850) 410-0920 joe.kight@freshfromflorida.com or David Perry (352) 572-3397 david.perry@freshfromflorida.com.

Florida Cattle ID Rules & Amendments

FDACS adopted a Florida Cattle Identification Rule (5C-31) on February 19, 2014. This rule is intended to improve the state's ability to trace diseased animals, to prevent disease spread in an animal disease emergency and to protect the marketability of Florida cattle. In addition, amendments were made to the Enforcement and Penalties Rule (5C-30) to include penalties for violations. Amendments were published in a Notice of Proposed Rule on June 16. For complete texts of the rules and a "frequently asked question" Q&A, visit http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry/Florida-Cattle-Identification.

NOTE: Regarding disaster planning for large animals, Brevard County recommends visiting the USDA web site at http://awic.nal.usda.gov/farm-animals/disaster-planning for additional information and guidelines.

Notes & Currents Worth Watching

1. The rising cost of seafood

A 4,000 sq. mi. red tide bloom in the Gulf of Mexico off the Florida coast has killed thousands of fish and may pose a human health threat when it begins washing ashore as expected this month. The slow-moving bloom stretches from the curve of the Panhandle to Tampa Bay.

Red tide occurs when naturally occurring algae bloom out of control. The odorless chemicals can trigger respiratory distress in humans, coughing and wheezing. Such a tide can linger for months or be rapidly dispersed by a storm.

Brandon Basino, a spokesman for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, a SART partner, said, "It has been killing a lot of marine species offshore: snapper, grouper, flounder, crabs, bull sharks, eel and octopus." This is the largest bloom seen since 2006 and it could impact the endangered manatee and Florida's economy by spoiling beach tourism and harming commercial fishing.

2. Unpronounceable, but present

As your *SART Sentinel* warned several months ago, the mosquito-transmitted disease chikungunya has recently been found in south Florida. Florida's Dept. of Health has gone door-to-door in Palm Beach County to discuss this illness with residents in potentially affected areas.

Symptoms including joint pain, fever and headaches usually are noticed from three to seven days after the bite of a host mosquito. Symptoms range from mild headaches to severe and disabling pain.

There is no preventive medication for chikungunya but rest, fluids and medications like ibuprofen help lessen the symptoms.

3. Could it spread to the U.S.?

Now that the deadly Ebola virus has been discovered in Nigeria – spreading from Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia – the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued its highest alert activation. CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden announced via Twitter that the CDC operations center has moved to a Level 1 response. (By the time you read this, 2,000 people will have come down with Ebola and half have died.)

Controversially, the CDC has arranged with Emory University Hospital to care for two infected American health-care volunteers from the region. Both the CDC and Emory are headquartered in Atlanta.

Nigerian health authorities have acknowledged that they did not immediately quarantine a sick airline passenger – a 40-year-old American of Liberian descent – who later died of Ebola. Eight health workers who had direct contact with him are now in isolation with symptoms of the disease. With a population size of 170 million, Nigeria is the 7th largest country on earth.

About the SART Sentinel

The SART Sentinel is an e-mail newsletter prepared monthly by the members of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team. Past issues of the **Sentinel** are archived on the Florida SART Web Site *www.flsart.org*.

If you have a story or photo that you would like to have considered for publication in **the SART Sentinel**, please contact the editors.

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