THE SENTINEL
NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

Photo courtesy of Alan Youngblood (Google: youngblood.alan)

SART Partner, UF VETS, Exercise Equine Helicopter Technical Rescue

On Friday, September 16th, the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine Disaster Response Team, UF VETS, coordinated a helicopter technical rescue with members of the Marion County Sheriff's all volunteer Mounted Unit, the St. John's County technical rescue team, and the Florida Forest Service helicopter team based in Ocala.

The twenty responder participants used UF's "Randy," which is a life-like horse mannequin, and an Anderson Sling which is a specialized sling used for extended duration lifts and support of horses.

This kit also includes specialized pieces for airlift, including a drogue chute which catches the helicopter down draft and prevents the horse from spinning.

The team received a safety briefing regarding operating around the helicopter, and the significant shock that could be delivered by the lifting cable if not handled safely. The engine and rotor blades create a massive static charge that must be grounded before someone can touch the cable.

After moving to a remote part of the Ocala Airport, the team was instructed by UF VETS team member Josh Fleming to apply the Anderson Sling.

(See *Helicopter Technical Rescue*, page 2)

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team Actives for Hurricane Hermine*
- *Zika Update: CDC and Florida Department of Health Continue Response*
- *FDA Updates Food Facility Registration Product Categories in Guidance*

"As part of our commitment to food safety, potentially impacted product has been removed from store shelves."

— Maria Brous
Publix Media and Community Relations Director
Responding to the recall of Publix Apple Coffee Cakes.
(Story on page 6)

Helicopter Technical Rescue (continued)

The group was broken into teams of 6, operating under the direction of Josh Fleming, with John Haven as the overall scene safety officer. The helicopter, in NIMS (National Incident Management System) terms, was a Type II, helicopter, better known as a Bell Huey. Type II helicopters can lift 2500 lbs, which provides an adequate safety margin for lifting most horses.

Most sheriff observation and medical evacuation helicopters are Type III, and are unable to lift enough weight to do the job. The technique requires more than just a specific helicopter, but also a special pilot. Operating an aircraft with a heavy load suspended below it requires great care since that weight can become a swinging pendulum and create a significant safety hazard to responders and the animal.

Members of both groups were able to participate as part of the animal extrication team. With each pass, the helicopter gently pulled into a position 50 feet over the team. A grounding cable was released which allowed the team to connect a 15-foot polyester cable, that in turn connected to the Anderson Sling.

Under incredibly fine control, Chief Pilot Fender inched the helicopter up until the mannequin was well off the ground. Then the pilot made a lap of the airfield, and returned "Randy" back down on the ground as gently as he picked it up.

The team then disconnected the polyester cable from the steel cable, which had a quick release on the end, and could be operated by the pilot. Similarly, the horse's lead rope was removed prior to lift off.

The need for a helicopter rescue in Florida is very rare given the terrain and other available options. In more mountainous terrain, however, helicopter rescues are far more common. This is largely due to the speed in which a horse can be flown to safety versus a potentially long and difficult trying to negotiate challenging terrain with a heavy load.

(See *Helicopter Technical Rescue,* page 7)

Right: Rescuers from the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine Disaster Response Team, UF VETS, prepare for the exercise.

Photo courtesy of Alan Youngblood (Google: youngblood.alan)

Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team Actives for Hurricane Hermine

In March 2010, a report by the Produce Safety Project, an initiative of the Pew Charitable Trusts, ranked Florida fourth in the nation for number of foodborne illnesses. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions, states the number of foodborne illness cases are 82 million a year in the United States of which 4.9 million cases are attributed to Florida.

Tasked with handling these incidents is Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team (FLIRRT). FLIRRT is a multiagency response team using the best skills and expertise available to jointly respond to an adverse food or feed incident or event utilizing the Incident Command Structure for a uniform and efficient response or recovery. Partners include:

- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Florida Department of Health
- Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulations
- Food and Drug Administration
- United States Department of Agriculture

On September 1, 2016, FLIRRT was activated for Hurricane Hermine. Directed by FDACS' Food Safety Incident Management Team, nine strike teams of field personnel were deployed to 32 counties for the assessment of over 2,000 food establishments in the affected areas. Two additional strike teams comprised of personnel from Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Department of Health, and the Food and Drug Administration personnel completed assessments via phone calls.

During assessments, staff provided food establishments with boil water guidelines, damaged food guides, and guidance for industry after a weather emergency.

More information may be found at
http://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/65472/1567571/DamagedFoodGuidance.pdf

Enrollment Open: Awareness Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Course

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition has upcoming opportunities for their *Awareness Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering* courses

When disaster strikes, the team of trained volunteer responders will be there to shelter and protect Florida's companion animals.

The Awareness Level course gives students the knowledge necessary to work in an emergency animal shelter. This class provides expertise and practical experience required to become a professional disaster animal responder. The course is certified by the Florida Department of Emergency Management and is required to respond in Florida to help companion animals and their owners during a disaster.

Course topics include: Personal Preparedness, Overview of the Incident Command System, Deployment Preparedness, Assisting in Shelter Setup, Daily Care and Feeding, Proper Cage Cleaning and Disinfection, Animal Behavior, Stress Management, Zoonotic Diseases, and Personal Safety.

For more information about the courses, and to register, please visit: http://flsarc.org/Training.html

October 15 Course – Sarasota, FL

When: Saturday, October 15, 2016, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM EDT
Where: Cat Depot Education Resource Center, 2542 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34234

October 16 Course – Clay County, FL

When: Sunday, October 16, 2016, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM EDT
Where: Clay County Emergency Operations Center, 2519 SR 16 West, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

SAVE THE DATE

The 2017 SART Planning Meeting

March 28-30, 2017

Stay up-to-date at www.FLSART.org!

FDA Updates Food Facility Registration Product Categories in Guidance

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued updated guidance last month that will help enhance FDA's ability to respond quickly and accurately to food-related emergencies by updating the food product categories that companies can select when registering with the agency.

Information about the categories of food a facility manufactures or distributes currently helps the FDA conduct investigations and surveillance operations in response to food-related emergencies. These categories also enable the agency to quickly alert facilities potentially affected by such an incident if the FDA receives information indicating the type of food affected.

For example, if the FDA receives information indicating that soft drinks could be affected by a bioterrorism incident or other food-related emergency, the agency is able to alert soft drink facilities about the incident.

Food product categories also help the FDA verify that imported products are correctly identified by where and when they were produced. For example, if the registration information identifies a facility as producing only dairy products and the FDA receives a prior notice for a shipment of nuts purporting to have been produced at that facility, the agency can examine the shipment to verify its contents based on the discrepancy between the registration information and prior notice data.

Changes to the food product categories include:

- Acidified foods and low acid canned foods are no longer listed as food product categories because they are now activity types
- Additions to animal food categories of botanicals and herbs, direct fed microbials, animal protein products, forage products, human food by-products not otherwise listed and technical additives
- Molluscan shellfish is now a food product category (previously, molluscan shellfish establishment was listed among the optional activity types)

More information may be found here.

Publix Recalls Apple Coffee Cakes Due to Foreign Matter-Metal

Publix Super Markets is issuing a voluntary recall for Apple Coffee Cakes due to the possible presence of small metal shavings.

The Apple Coffee Cakes were sold at Publix bakery departments in Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina and the following counties in Florida: Alachua, Charlotte, Citrus, Collier, DeSoto, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Marion, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Sarasota.

"As part of our commitment to food safety, potentially impacted product has been removed from store shelves," said Maria Brous, Publix media and community relations director. "To date, there have been no reported cases of illness or injury. Consumers who have purchased the product in question may return the product to their local store for a full refund.

Publix customers with additional questions may call our Customer Care department at 1-800-242-1227 or contact us by visiting our website at www.publix.com. Customers can also contact the US Food and Drug Administration at 1-888-SAFEFOOD (1-888-723-3366).

Zika Update: CDC and Florida Department of Health Continue Response

On August 1, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued guidance for people who travel to or live in a 1-square-mile area of the Wynwood neighborhood in Miami, FL, identified by the Florida Department of Health as having mosquito-borne spread of Zika. On August 19, CDC also issued guidance for a 1.5-square-mile section of Miami Beach identified to have mosquito-borne spread of Zika; on September 17, this section was expanded to a 4.5-square-mile area.

As of September 19, CDC has updated guidance for the Wynwood-designated area after three mosquito incubation periods passed without any new locally transmitted cases of Zika.

Meanwhile, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) continues door-to-door outreach and targeted testing in Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties and mosquito abatement and reduction activities are also taking place around the locations that are being investigated. DOH believes ongoing transmission is only taking place within the identified area in Miami Beach in Miami-Dade County.

One case does not mean ongoing active transmission is taking place. DOH conducts a thorough investigation by sampling close contacts and community members around each case to determine if additional people are infected. If DOH finds evidence that active transmission is occurring in an area, the media and the public will be notified.

As of September 27, 2016, the table below is complete breakdown of non-travel and travel-related Zika infections to-date.

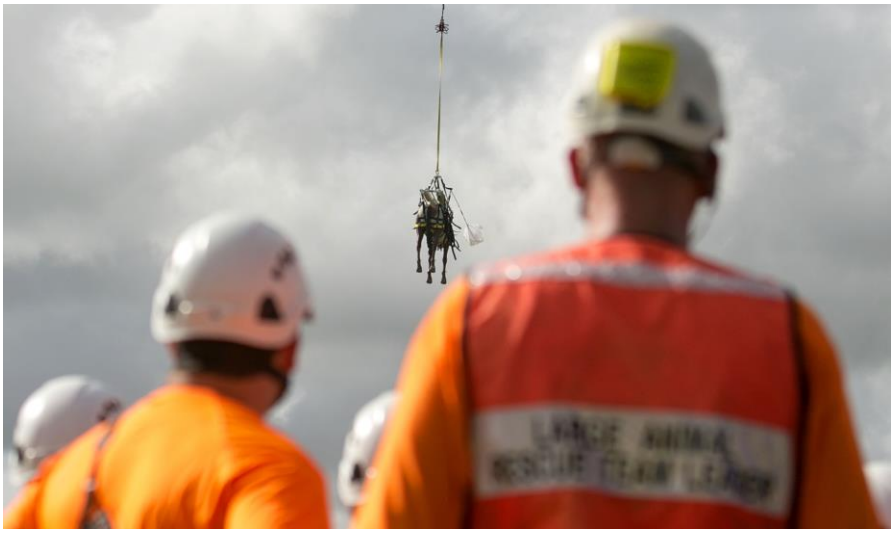
Infection Type	Count
Travel-Related Infections of Zika	693
Non-Travel Related Infections of Zika	109
Infections Involving Pregnant Women	91
Out-of-State Cases (not Florida Residents)	11
Total	**904**

For more information on DOH action and federal guidance, please click here.

For resources and information on Zika virus, click here.

Helicopter Technical Rescue (continued)

Horses also don't do well when forced to stay on their side for extended periods, so the quick extrication with a helicopter can significantly increase the odds for a positive outcome.



The UF CVM team is a statewide disaster response resource, and can be deployed to other states to assist in a declared incident, and it is prepared to conduct rescues across a broad spectrum of techniques. It's team members are trained and equipped for both human and animal technical rescue, and have assisted in rescues of dogs, horses, and cows across central Florida, working with various fire and sheriff agencies.

John Haven, the UF CVM Executive Director, and disaster response team leader, is also a member of the MCSO mounted unit. Mr. Haven has coordinated previous joint trainings including a two-day Operations Level animal technical rescue course. Additionally, he has conducted a simulated trail accident, and the rescue of an animal from a sink hole.

Please log in and update your membership information online at:

www.FLSART.org

About the *SART Sentinel*

The *SART Sentinel* is an email newsletter prepared monthly by the members of the **Florida State Agricultural Response Team**. Past issues of the *Sentinel* are archived on the Florida SART website, 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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