THE SENTINEL
NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

The biennial SART Planning meeting will be held March 28-30 in Dayton Beach, Florida. With new courses, workshops and sessions, there will be plenty to learn and many opportunities for you to be a part of our future!

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Enrollment Open: Awareness Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Course*
- *Florida Forest Service Releases New BurnTools App*
- *UF VETS Team Conducts Operations Level Animal Technical Rescue Course*

It's Here! The 2017 SART Planning Meeting Kicks off on March 28th

Don't delay, register now for the biennial SART Planning meeting!

Kicking off on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 28th, in Daytona Beach, Florida, the organizers say that "With new courses, workshops and sessions, there will be plenty to learn and many opportunities for you to be a part of SART's future!"

The SART Steering Committee has designed this program to familiarize participants with disaster situations and provide background information on animal and agriculturally-related emergency management issues.

A program Web site with complete registration information has been established online at: http://www.cvent.com/events/2017-sart-planning-meeting/event-summary-42c798626219496f9743dc82246ec0c5.aspx.

The planning meeting sessions will take place at The Plaza Resort & Spa. There is no cost to attend, and the event is open to county emergency management directors, IFAS Extension staff, and SART partner agencies.

For conference-related questions, please contact CMC & Associates at (850) 224-7775 or mnorton@cmc-associates.com.

A detailed meeting agenda is outlined on page 2.

"Jenn [Miler-Most] brings with her years of experience in the disaster field. She has a strong organizational background in disaster work, shelter work, and animal transport."

— Consie von Gontard
Director of Training
FL State Animal Response Team
(Story on page 6)

SART Planning Meeting

2017 SART Planning Meeting - Agenda

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

1:00 PM	Welcome/Introductions	Dr. Michael Short
1:30 PM	SART 2.0 Overview	Stephen Barineau
2:00 PM	Introduction of FDACS ESF-17 Specialists	Stephen Barineau
2:30 PM	Break	
2:45 PM	FLIRRT - Food Safety Response	Summer Williams
3:15 PM	Vector Control Issues and Requirements	Dale Dubberly
4:00 PM	Adjourn	
5:00 PM	Reception	

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

8:00 AM	Day 2 Welcome	Dr. Greg Christy
8:15 AM	Florida SARC - Emergency Sheltering	Consie von Gontard
8:45 AM	UF Vet College - Education Outside of the Classroom	John Haven
9:15 AM	New World Screwworm - Sending the Right Message	Dr. William Fisch Dr. Nelly Amador-Jehn
10:15AM	Break	
10:30 AM	IFAS - Experts Next Door	Dr. Saqib Mukhtar
11:30 AM	Lunch (On your Own)	
1:00 PM	Zika Panel Discussion - Where We Stand Today	Dr. Roxanne Connelly
2:00 PM	LECALE - Pilot to Production	Dr. Matt Hersom
3:00 PM	Hillsborough County Training Workshop	John Haven
3:15 PM	Citrus County Training Workshop	Clay Cooper
4:00 PM	Adjourn	

Thursday, March 30, 2017

8:00 AM	Day 3 Welcome	Dr. Michael Short
8:10 AM	Homeland Security Funding and The Role You Play	Ben Burns
8:45 AM	Hurricane Matthew, Lessons Learned	Consie von Gontard
9:45 AM	Break	
10:00 AM	Local SART County Visits - Why We Meet	John Court
10:30 AM	City of Jacksonville Hurricane Matthew Response	Jennifer Walter
11:00 AM	Closing Remarks	
11:30 AM	Adjourn	

SART and Hillsborough County Host Pet Friendly Shelter Workshop

By Sara Thomas, ARPC

Between Tropical Storm Colin, Hurricane Bonnie, Hurricane Hermine, and Hurricane Matthew, there were not many places in Florida that did not experience threatening weather conditions at some point during the 2016 Hurricane Season. The active season prompted many counties to open shelters for residents and evacuees, something Florida has not had to do in quite some time.

Hillsborough County, in coordination with SART, decided they were not going to wait for a major disaster to test and improve their sheltering abilities. On February 19th, Hillsborough County and SART hosted a pet-friendly shelter workshop at the Hillsborough County Fairgrounds.

Despite the beautiful blue skies, the simulated hurricane that had passed through Hillsborough County the night before left a path of destruction and flooding, causing residents, some with their pets, to seek shelter other than their homes. These circumstances provided an opportunity for community partners to work together to practice their pet and human sheltering capabilities.

SART was especially excited to test out a new tracking software, the National Mass Evacuation Tracking System (NMETS), to make tracking and family reunification more fluid through issuing wristbands with unique barcodes and scanning evacuees as they move through the sheltering process. The simulation also contained separate areas for owned animals, strays, and animals that may need to be quarantined.

Early in the morning, busloads of survivors and pets began showing up at the shelter.

From there, people without animals were shown to the Red Cross shelter check-in, while those with pets and any unowned animals went to the pet shelter triage to be seen by members of the University of Florida Veterinary College. The animals would then be treated and decontaminated if necessary before moving into the pet shelter being staffed by the State Animal Response Coalition (SARC). The pet shelter was co-located to the Red Cross human shelter and contained separate areas for owned animals, strays, and animals that may need to be quarantined.

Once it was safe for the survivors to return to their homes, shelter staff began the reunification and check-out process. Using the wristbands, which linked a pet to their owner in the NMETS system, and photographs taken at intake, the pet shelter staff could identify pet owners and reunite them with their pets.

The workshop was an excellent opportunity to bring together many community partners who would not work together under normal conditions. The Hillsborough County Fire Hazmat team, Pet Resource Center, Animal Control, Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management, American Red Cross of Tampa Bay, University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, Humane Society of Tampa Bay, Sunshine Line, Hillsborough Area Transportation Authority (HART), and the State Animal Response Coalition, with support from the SART and FEMA, all worked together to create a safe and effective sheltering workshop.

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* course.

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 Awareness Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering 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

April 8 Course – Sarasota, FL

When: Saturday, April 8, 2017, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Where: Cat Depot Education Resource Center, 2542 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34234

April 23 Course – Tallahassee, FL

When: Sunday, April 23, 2017, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Where: Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, 1115 Easterwood Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32311

The major strengths identified for the large animal rescue include:

1. ***Quickly identified that there was both a human and animal rescue required at the crash site. Initial actions focused on the human treatment and extrication.***

2. ***Report to the Incident Commander was accurate and detailed enough to paint a picture for the IC about the truck crash and horse trailer. In addition, communications were made concerning the injured and missing horse.***

3. ***After the human extrication was complete the on-scene team was pulled together and a plan of action to remove the horse was discussed.***

4. ***Stabilization of the horse trailer was done very well.***

5. ***An on-scene large animal veterinarian was used to sedate the horse and at his direction a blanket was placed over the horse's eyes.***

6. ***The roof flap was performed excellently and provided a hard platform for the skids to rest on while the horse was slid out of the trailer.***

7. ***During the entire extrication process, responder safety was discussed and every opportunity was taken to ensure that workers were kept safe.***

Volusia/Brevard Wildland Fire/Large Animal Rescue Conducts Full-Scale Exercise

On February 9th, the "Until the Cows Come Home" full-scale exercise was delivered by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Emergency Preparedness Department. The exercise was carried out at the Volusia County Fire Training in Daytona Beach, Florida.

The exercise was developed in conjunction with both the Volusia and Brevard Counties Office of Emergency Management. This event included a two-day, *Large Animal Rescue Operations Level* training course taught by the University of Florida and was actively attended by nineteen members.

The scenario involved a wildland fire near Interstate 95. "The smoke has led to numerous car and truck crashes on the interstate including on large animal hauler." The tractor trailer truck hauling approximately 20 full size cattle eventually crashes.

The selected Mission Areas for this exercise involved Protection, Mitigation and Response and was designed to test Operational Coordination, Fire Management and Suppression, Mass Search and Rescue Operations (large animal rescue), and Operational Communications.

The exercise included the objective of providing search and rescue capabilities to both persons and animals threated by the spreading fires within the affected area to ensure saving the greatest number of endangered lives in the shortest amount of time.

Operation "Until the Cows Come Home" was received with enthusiasm, professionalism, and a willingness to learn. According to the After Action Report, the participants demonstrated their understanding of commanding and responding to multiple complex events while practicing established policies in the safest manner possible.

Florida SARC Welcomes New Planning Manager

Last month, Florida SARC announced Jenn Miler-Most as their new Planning Manager. Jenn will be taking over the duties of Andy Bass. Andy is moving on to new adventures, but will be remaining an active part of the SARC team, and continue as an instructor.

Ms. Miler-Most brings with her years of experience in disaster response. She has a strong organizational background in disaster work, animal sheltering, and animal transport. Jenn will be the main contact for booking classes, working with SARC's ambassadors to help schedule class instructors, and backing up Pam Burns for Volunteer Resources.

Jenn's contact information is planning@flsarc.org, or you can reach her by calling 352-658-1224 ext. 702.

Florida Forest Service Releases New BurnTools App

Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam and the Florida Forest Service announced last month the release of "FLBurnTools," a new mobile app to inform the public about drought, wildfire danger and wildfire activity. Prescribed burn practitioners can also use the app to plan and submit authorization requests. The "FLBurnTools" app is now available in both Apple's App Store and on Google Play.

"By providing Floridians with better access to the latest wildfire information, we can help protect people, wildlife and property," said Commissioner Putnam. "Residents can now see real-time conditions in their area and take the appropriate safety precautions."

The Florida Forest Service's prescribed fire program is a nationwide leader, treating more than 2.1 million acres last year and providing approximately 88,000 burn authorizations annually. In addition to administering Florida's prescribed fire program, the Florida Forest Service responds to wildfires during Florida's year-round wildfire season. Last year, more than 2,100 wildfires burned 53,476 acres in Florida.

The "FLBurnTools" app provides the following tools:

- Drought information
- Interactive fire maps
- Wildfire information
- Burning authorization requests
- Smoke dispersion models
- Spot weather forecasts

For more information, visit http://www.freshfromflorida.com/News-Events/Press-Releases/2017-Press-Releases/Florida-Forest-Service-Releases-New-Fire-Information-App

UF VETS Team Conducts Operations Level Animal Technical Rescue Course

On January 28th and 29th, the UF VETS team conducted an *Operations Level Animal Technical Rescue* course with students spanning the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, newer UF VETS Team members, FL SARC, Alachua County Fire Rescue, and additional students who traveled all the way from the Washington State College of Veterinary Medicine.

This course also featured the new instructor team of Brandi Phillips and Josh Fleming, who taught under the supervision of VETS Team Leader and Chief Instructor, John Haven. With more trained instructors, the UF VETS team hopes to be able to better serve those requesting training.

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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