THE SENTINEL
NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

Be prepared! Hurricane Season is June 1 through November 30.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *With Wildfires Approaching, ESF-17 and SART Partners Begin Preparations for Animal Sheltering*
- *Enrollment Open: Awareness Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Course*
- *ESF-17 Attends the Bonifay Elementary Emergency Preparedness Day*

SART Participates in Statewide Hurricane Exercise

The 2017 Florida Statewide Hurricane Exercise was held last month at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Tallahassee.

The State Emergency Response Team (SERT) annual exercise tested Florida's emergency plans and procedures for a potential hurricane landfall. Along with federal, local and private-sector partners, the exercise simulated emergency response efforts managing an evolving hurricane scenario.

The ESF-17 staff actively answered exercise mission requests, attended meetings and coordinated response resources at the SEOC. SART Partner Agencies participated in the exercise via a partner's conference call and daily situation report.

"The 2017 statewide hurricane exercise serves as an opportunity to practice our lessons learned from the 2016 Atlantic Hurricane Season and to solidify our valuable partnerships in preparation for the upcoming season," said Bryan W. Koon, director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

"As we work with our partners to test our hurricane response plans and make the necessary updates to keep Floridians safe, families should take the opportunity to double-check their own plans and ensure their disaster supply kits are properly stocked."

(See *Hurricane Exercise,* page 2.)

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— Bryan W. Koon
Director, Florida Division of Emergency Management

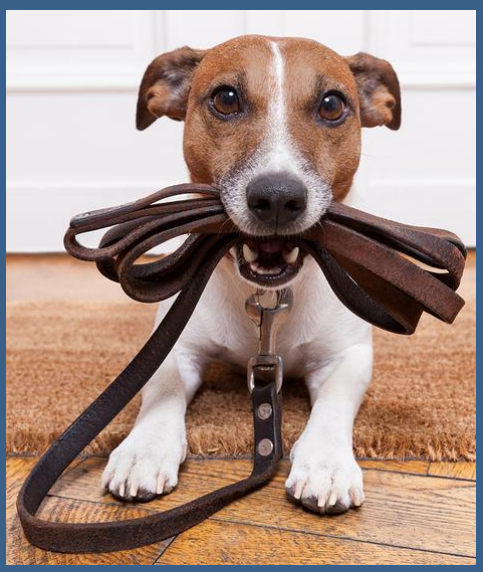
Hurricane Exercise (continued)

The 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season started Thursday, June 1. Make sure you are prepared to follow the instructions of local officials when a hurricane threatens your community. Know the nearest shelter, build an evacuation plan, and maintain a disaster supply kit for your pets.

Sara Thomas of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council said, "The staff in the ESF-17 room did an excellent job of maintaining situational awareness for themselves and the partners in the field. Responses to missions were generally quick and appropriate. When unusual situations were presented, staff were able to calmly talk through the possible solutions and determine the best course of action."

For more information, please visit http://floridadisaster.org

Are You and Your Pets Prepared?



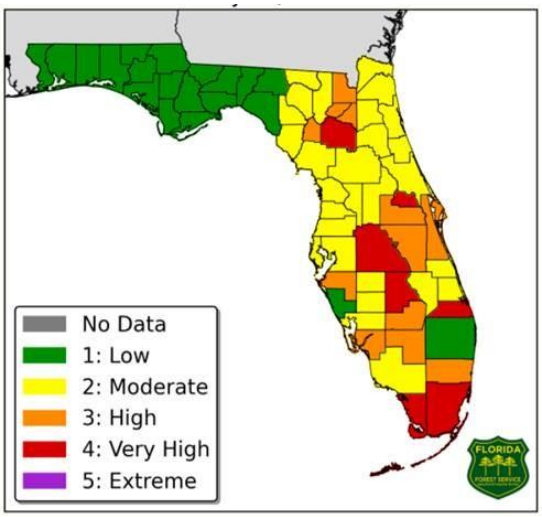
Florida SART encourages you to visit FDACS' Emergency Response Documents on Disaster Preparedness webpage and to revisit the following documents for helpful information on evacuating pets, horses and livestock.

- Disaster Preparedness for Horses
- Disaster Preparedness for Livestock
- Disaster Preparedness for Pets

Additionally, as we begin hurricane season, it is imperative that we assure all contact information is accurate and up-to-date before an activation. County contact information such as your County Emergency Operation Center, ESF-17 Coordinator, and County Extension Office is a resourceful and highly-utilized feature on the SART website, especially during an activation or exercise. In the event of a disaster, proper preparation will pay off.

Directions: Sign in as a SART Member. On the 'Members Area' page, scroll to the bottom to 'County and Agencies Resources,' select 'Edit Counties Information,' and choose your county.

With Wildfires Approaching, ESF-17 and SART Partners Begin Preparations for Animal Sheltering



On May 9, the Florida Division of Emergency Management's (FDEM) State Emergency Response Team (SERT) notified the Department's Emergency Support Function 17 (ESF-17) of the 140,000+ acre Georgia West Mims Fire creeping close to the Florida border of Nassau and Baker Counties. This lightning-caused fire was reported on April 6, 2017, approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the Eddy Fire Tower in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

ESF-17 and SART partners immediately began preparations for small and large animal sheltering with ESF-17 emergency management offices and UF/IFAS Extension contacts from Baker and Nassau Counties. SART provided and staged two livestock trailers and magnum panels/animal crates at the Northeast Florida Fair Grounds in Nassau County, which would open its grounds for human and animal sheltering, if needed. ESF-17 and SART held a conference call with Baker and Nassau County emergency management, UF/IFAS Extension, FDEM/SERT, Florida Forest Service, American Red Cross, and Salvation Army to discuss updates on the fire and any needed resources. The Department's Division of Animal Industry also issued temporary suspension of the intrastate and interstate movement requirements for animals being transported to safety from the impacted areas of the Mim's fire, in Southeast Georgia.

As of June 1, 2017, the West Mims Fire is 152,515 acres and 65 percent contained, and has not impacted the Baker and Nassau County areas. ESF-17 and SART continue to standby and ready to respond as there are no unmet or future needs currently from Baker and Nassau Counties. The fire is being managed by the Southern States Type 1 Incident Management Team and the Atlanta-based National Incident Management Organization in cooperation with the Georgia Forestry Commission, Greater Okefenokee Association of Landowners, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Florida Forest Service.

Incident Information System (inciweb.nwcg.gov) maintains updated images and information on the West Mims Fire.

Presentations from the 2017 SART Planning Meeting Now Available to View

Presentations from the 2017 Biennial SART Planning Meeting are now available on the SART website.

Just visit:
http://www.flsart.org/SART/buildingabetterteam/2017presentation/

In the News

Short stories and updates from around the state…

3rd Annual Congress of Mexican Pathologists
On May 1 in Mérida, Yucatán Mexico, Dr. Gizela Maldonado made a presentation entitled "15 years embracing the OneHealth initiative at Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Florida" as part of the Congress' Veterinary Pathology session. Dr. Maldonado, along with two Mexican veterinary pathologist colleagues, led the three-hour session. This was a unique learning experience and opportunity for both veterinary and human pathologists to share information, interact and network, and find common ground for joining efforts in embracing the OneHealth initiative. (One Health Commission)

New Reportable Disease Cases
On May 11, 15 and 20, three quarantines for Strangles were issued in Lee, Columbia and Lake Counties. Strangles is a contagious, infectious, upper respiratory disease of horses. The quarantine was the first for all three counties and the 19th, 20th and 21st reported cases of Strangles in Florida this calendar year. To date in 2017, 16 of the 21 strangles cases have direct epidemiological links to the horses sold at the Bastrop, Louisiana facility and the individuals that distribute them throughout the country. (Equine Disease Communication Center)

Crews rescued a trapped horse in Plant City
A 25-year-old horse was stuck in thick mud when the Hillsborough County Fire Rescue arrived on the scene. Veterinarian Alexandra Urban from the Brandon Equine Medical Center as well as various workers from Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Heavy Rescue 11, the Polk County Sheriff's Office State Agriculture Response Team, Hillsborough County Public Works and RVR Horse Rescue put padded straps around Kiersa and carefully lifted her out of the mud. (ABC News)

66th Annual Beef Cattle Short Course and Trade Show
On May 4-5 in Gainesville, approximately 340 producers, educators, and allied industry leaders participated in the 66th Annual Beef Cattle Short Course and Trade Show. Staff from the Division of Animal Industry had a booth and talked about animal health initiatives, New World Screwworm eradication efforts, and cattle identification. Stephen Monroe and Robert Capote answered producer questions and provided information, registered premises, and distributed Official ID tags. Arthur Smith and Justin Carter participated in the Beef Cattle Short Course for continuing education to better assist cattle producers. The University of Florida's new Beef Teaching Unit at Gainesville was dedicated just prior to the opening of the trade show. It drew industry leaders, local officials, and University of Florida dignitaries.

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

June 17th Course – Sarasota, FL

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

UF's John Haven Attends EVOLSAR International Meeting and Training

Congratulations to John Haven, UF VETS Team Leader, who was selected to attend the European Volunteer Organizations for Search and Rescue (EVOLSAR) meeting in Malta.

Response teams from 18 countries participated in exercises, including the United States, Russia, Malta, Serbia, Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Portugal, France, Spain, United Kingdom, Hungary, and Romania.

Three different rescue scenarios were exercised: a building collapse (conducted at a location from a previous earthquake), a rescue of patients from a tower construction crane, and search and rescue of victims from a cliff.

The exercises were a culmination of a multi-year European Union funded project to develop standards and commonality between the volunteer rescue organizations to develop true interoperability – really a step beyond resource typing.

ESF-17 Attends the Bonifay Elementary Emergency Preparedness Day

The Holmes County Emergency Management has an Emergency Preparedness Day every year. They invite government agents involved with emergency responses to set up booths to distribute information and educate the 5th grade classes in the county on what roles they play in an emergency and how they can prepare themselves.

This year's Emergency Preparedness Day was held at Bonifay Elementary School in Holmes County. Mr. James Pilcher, ESF-17 District Specialist in Cottondale, Florida, had a booth and talked to the children about how they and their family can assist in preparation for hurricane season and how to prepare their pets, too.

Mr. Pilcher handed out educational materials to the kids on creating a kit of pet emergency supplies and informational brochures on animal diseases.

UF VETS Team Comes to the Rescue Again

A 1,200-pound cow that was stuck in mud last month in Alachua County was successfully rescued by the University of Florida Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service team, part of the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine.

As reported in The Gainesville Sun, The cow was in a pasture off Northwest 37th Street just north of 53rd Avenue. A section of the pasture is high and dry, but another section is somewhat wet and swampy. The repot speculated that the cow was searching for greener grazing, and wandered into the wet area and became stuck in a mucky puddle.

The team consisted of Brandi Phillips, Josh Fleming, Sara Almcrantz, and Matthew Johnson — with help from others at the scene were able to slide the cow onto a "rescue glide" and then pull the glide out of the mud.

Read the complete story from The Gainesville Sun at http://www.gainesville.com/news/20170513/cow-rescued-from-mud-reunited-with-calf

FDACS and SART Welcome Laterika Shoemate-Dehaney

Laterika Shoemate-Dehaney was hired as a half-time Staff Assistant for the Division of Animal Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Laterika serves as division support for emergency management programs, and assists Dr. Gregory Christy and LeiAnna Tucker with the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and ESF-17 (Animals and Agriculture) disaster preparedness and response activities.

Prior to joining FDACS, Laterika served the citizens of Florida for nine years as a Government Operations Consultant I with the Florida Department of Revenue. She also served in the Florida Army National Guard for 12 years, serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Iraqi Enduring Freedom. Laterika is currently a senior at Florida A&M University pursuing a Bachelors of Health Science in hopes of completing her Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree.

Laterika lives in Tallahassee with husband Dion and two daughters, Shauniya and Daija. She may be contacted by email at Laterika.Shoemate-Dehaney@FreshFromFlorida.com.

Welcome to the team, Laterika!

FDACS and SART Welcome LeiAnna Tucker

LeiAnna Tucker has been hired as the new Government Analyst I in the Division of Animal Industry at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). LeiAnna serves as state coordinator for the State Agricultural Response Team (SART), and Co-ECO for ESF-17 (Animals and Agriculture) disaster preparedness and response activities alongside Dr. Greg Christy.

Prior to joining FDACS, LeiAnna served as an active Disaster Relief Volunteer with the American Red Cross where she provided leadership in mass care sheltering, shelter survey evaluation, damage assessment, and disaster response. She also received her bachelor's degree in international affairs with a concentration in emergency management from the Florida State University.

Additionally, LeiAnna brings with her a strong professional background with over seven years of experience in program planning and administrative work. She served as a program analyst at the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, managing federal waivers/grants that authorize the operation of Florida Medicaid and managed care programs.

LeiAnna resides in Tallahassee, and is married to her husband, Bryan. They have one fur baby, a Doberman Pinscher named, Tydan. LeiAnna can be contacted at LeiAnna.Tucker@FreshFromFlorida.com.

Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team Holds Annual Meeting

Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team (FLIRRT) held its 4th Annual Meeting May 15-17 in Lake Mary, Florida. Attendees included members from FDA- Florida District Office, DBPR- Division of Hotel and Restaurants, DOH, FDACS (Food Safety and the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement), and other participating states in the Rapid Response Team Cooperative Grant Program (Georgia, Mississippi, and Michigan).

Presentations focused on the use of the Incident Command System during an emergency, the importance of multiagency collaboration, and food recall audit checks. Various FDACS Food Safety members presented on the activation of FLIRRT during Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew. Two presentations from the FDACS Division of Animal Industry focused on FDACS' New World Screwworm Response (Dr. Nelly Amador-Jehn) and an overview on the State Agricultural Response Team (Stephen Barineau and Leianna Tucker).

FDACS Division of Food Safety staff discussed the 2016 Hurricane Activations and how an activation can go a lot smoother with the use of GIS. Both FDACS and Mississippi's RRT discussed their current process of implementing GIS into the Rapid Response Team spectrum.

EDEN EXTENSION DISASTER EDUCATION NETWORK

Looking for Drought-Related Resources?

Visit the EDEN Resource Catalog at:

http://public.eden.lsuagcenter.com/search/Pages/results-rc.aspx?k=Drought

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 at 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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