The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

Officers with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement, stand for a photo in front of a patrol car.

Agroterrorism: Florida Law Enforcement's Role

By the time former Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said, "For the life of me, I cannot understand why the terrorists have not attacked our food supply because it is so easy to do," numerous Federal, state, and local agencies were already working on agricultural emergency planning and response efforts.

Years later, in 2014, Major Ben Burns with the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement {OALE) at FDACS wrote a thesis entitled *Florida Law Enforcement's Role in Agroterrorism*, which sought to examine progress made in protecting the State from attack.

In Major Burns' research, he cited National Institute of Justice gaps, stating, "The element that is missing from Florida's capabilities is having a law enforcement component intrinsic to their response."

Further, "This missing element results in two gaps. First, there is no criminal investigation element as an intrinsic part of an animal disease response event. Second, there is no ability to immediately enforce quarantines, stop movements, and, if needed, to enforce public order at the scene of the outbreak."

Burns speaks to the need of additional policy changes in Florida, recommending that agroterrorism training be mandatory for all OALE sworn personnel.

To read the full thesis, visit: https://calhoun.nps.edu/bitstream/handle/10945/44528/14Dec_Burns_Benjamin.pdf?sequence=1

Special Features of this Issue:

- *SART Partners Attended All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agricultural, & Food Related Disasters Course*
- *Florida Forest Service Encourages Use of BurnTools App*
- *Hernando County Announces New Large Animal Technical Rescue Team*

"Florida has honed its emergency response capabilities with heavy investment in pre-event planning, emergency management infrastructure and capabilities, and stored and staged resources… [including] agriculture related response capabilities."

— Major Ben Burns
Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

UF Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) Update

Petsmart Charities, who donated a trailer used in the VETS team's response in Hurricane Irma, visited the team last month to do some filming of a reenactment of their operations down in the Florida Keys. The team is appreciative of Petsmart Charities support in their missions.

The University of Florida VETS Instructors spent February 10-11th working with Hernando County Fire Department and Hernando County Sheriff's Officers. During this weekend training, the crew was able to use their own cache of equipment they've recently purchased to work through a variety of animal technical rescue scenarios, including a capstone exercise simulating the rescue of a boy and a dog in a local cave system.

SART Partners Attended All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agricultural, & Food Related Disasters Course

The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team (FLIRRT) hosted *All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agricultural, & Food Related Disasters* training course on February 28, 2018. This management level course provided background information needed to lead a multi-agency team of emergency planners in the development of an Emergency Support Function (ESF) annex for animal, agriculture, and food-related (AAF) disasters. This Department of Homeland Security certified training can then be used to supplement a community's existing Emergency Operation Plans.

Participants included FDACS' Division of Animal Industry, Division of Food Safety, Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement, and Office of Agricultural Water Policy; SART partners included FLIRRT, Florida Veterinary Medical Association, University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, and USDA. The training provided background information, resources, and case studies for constructing AAF disaster response plans for application in the event of an AAF emergency.

The course was instructed by the University of California-Davis' Western Institute for Food Safety and Security.

Florida Forest Service Encourages Use of BurnTools App

As the State prepares for wildfire season, SART reminds you to download the "FLBurnTools" mobile app. This service aims 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.

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.

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 https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Wildland-Fire/FLBurnTools

Training Opportunity: Emergency Pet Friendly Sheltering and PETS Act Reimbursement for Counties

A new course, "Emergency Pet Friendly Sheltering and PETS Act Reimbursement for Counties," will be offered at this year's 2018 Governor's Hurricane Conference (FLGHC) in West Palm Beach. This 1.5 hour course will be offered two times during the conference. The course will be taught by SART's LeiAnna Tucker and SARC's Consie von Gontard.

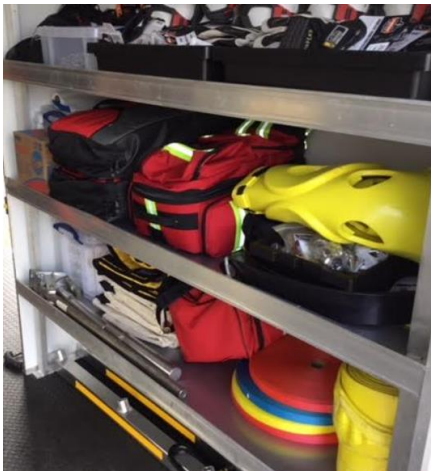
Course Description: Disasters can have a devastating effect on human and animal life, including family pets. This course will explain the difference between emergency sheltering, co-located sheltering and Pet Friendly sheltering, along with the pros and cons of each type of shelter. Through best management practices, pet evacuation and sheltering operations can provide proper care for these animals and keep families together. The PETS Act and Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act mandates state and local jurisdictions seeking FEMA Public Assistance to incorporate provisions in their emergency plans for evacuating and sheltering people with household pets and service animals facing disasters. This course will focus primarily on responsibilities with the setup, maintenance, animal care, and teardown of emergency Pet Friendly shelters. This training will also discuss how the Pet Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS Act) provides counties reimbursement for eligible expenses associated with setting up pet-friendly shelters and transporting those pets, if needed.

For more information, visit: http://flghc.org

Hernando County Announces New Large Animal Technical Rescue Team

Hernando County Emergency Management recently established and equipped a Large Animal Technical Rescue Team. The county partnered with the UF College of Veterinary Medicine to deliver three large animal rescue courses and have outfitted a customized response trailer with tools and equipment necessary to respond to most large animal emergencies.

The team is housed in Hernando County's Emergency Management office, which recently transitioned from the Sheriff's Office where they were previously housed to the Board of County Commissioners. For more information, visit: www.hernandocounty.us/em



UF/IFAS Provides Biosecurity and Biological Risk Management for Livestock Enterprises Resource

The purpose of biosecurity is to establish a prevention barrier to disease-causing agents and other threats by minimizing the movement of biological organisms and external threats onto and within livestock operations. The University of Florida IFAS Extension service has published a resource entitled *Biosecurity and Biological Risk Management for Livestock Enterprises*.

The report may be accessed at:
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/AN/AN19400.pdf

In the News

Short stories and updates from around the state…

Strangles Affects Alachua County
On February 26, one premises in Alachua County was placed under quarantine for clinical signs of Strangles. On March 1, one premises in Suwannee County was placed under quarantine for clinical signs and a positive PCR test result for Strangles. This is the eighth case of Strangles for Florida in 2018.

SART Steering Committee Meeting Scheduled
The next SART Steering Committee Meeting Is scheduled to be held on March 15, 2018, from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. This meeting is only for members of the SART Steering Committee. The meeting will be held at the USDA Farm Service Agency at 4440 NW 25th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32606. For more information, please visit: http://www.flsart.org/SART/viewcalendar?pageID=0&eventID=357

Florida Agriculture's Animal-Related Emergency Response Web Site
The Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services has updated their "Animal-Related Emergency Response" Web site. This resource provides information on disaster preparedness for horses, livestock and pets. For more information, please visit: https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry/Consumer-Resources/Animal-Related-Emergency-Response

Kanan Enterprises Conducts Voluntary Recall of Southern Grove Unsalted Almonds
Last month, Kanan Enterprises announced the voluntary recall of Southern Grove Unsalted Almond 14 oz., Best By SEP 25 2018 KN due to the presence of wheat and soy that are not listed as ingredients. People who have an allergy to wheat or soy run the risk of a serious or life-threatening allergic reaction if they consume these products. No adverse reactions have been reported associated with this recall. The product was distributed throughout Florida and other states.

Enrollment Open: Multiple Courses for Small Animal Emergency Sheltering

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition has upcoming opportunities for their Operations Level 2 Small Animal Emergency Sheltering and Awareness Level courses.

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

The Awareness Level 1 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.

The Operations Level 2 course gives many new job options, in addition to leadership skills and team lead opportunities. This course expands upon information covered in FL-003-RESP and ICS-100 courses. These earlier courses are prerequisites for FL-607-RESP.

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

March 10-11 Course – Sarasota, FL (Operations Level 2)

When: Saturday, March 10 – Sunday, March 11, 2018
Where: Cat Depot Education Center, 2525 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34234
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ef09nyqt2924e305&llr=cmn8hziab

March 24 Course – Largo, FL (Awareness Level 1)

When: Saturday, March 24, 2018
Where: SPC Vet Tech Campus, 12376 Ulmerton Rd., Largo, FL 33774
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ef4b871b261b0208&llr=cmn8hziab

March 24-25 Course – Fellsmere, FL (Operations Level 2)

When: Saturday, March 24 – Sunday, March 25, 2018
Where: Fellsmere City Hall Office Complex (City Council Chamber), 21 S Cypress Street, Fellsmere, FL 32948
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eey01ckdb99fd8d8&llr=cmn8hziab

The FLIRRT Report

A special section dedicated to feed and food emergency planning and response.

Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team (FLIRRT) is a multi-agency coordination group responding to feed and food emergency under the Rapid Response Team Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Cooperative Grant Program.

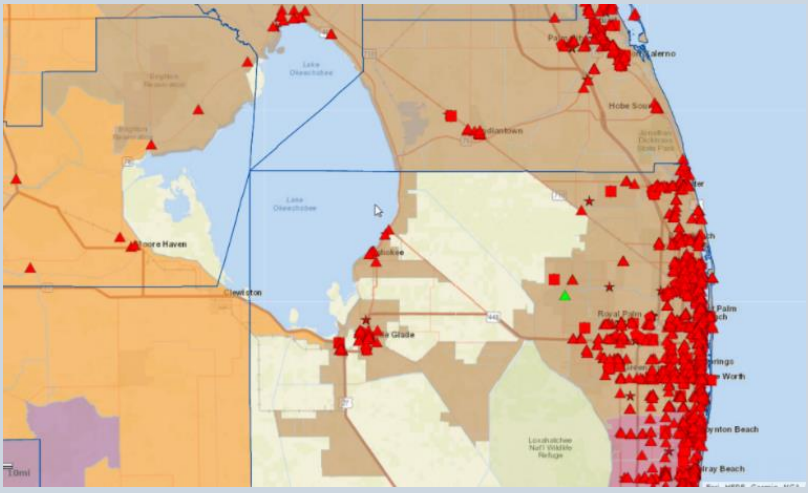
Florida is one of 21 states participating in this program, beginning in 2008. Partner agencies include the FDA, the Florida Department of Health, and Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

FLIRRT consists of technical experts in food manufacturing, food inspection, environmental health, and epidemiology. FLIRRT is an active partner in Emergency Support Function 11 (Food and Water) at Florida's State Emergency Operations Center.

For more information, please visit: http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Food-Safety/Food-Emergencies-and-Disaster-Preparation

- Team members from FLIRRT attended the 7th Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance (MFRPA) Meeting January 29-February 1 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Summer Williams, Patty Lewandowski and Jamie DeMent presented a panel discussion on "Using Technology to Enhance Surveillance and Response." Topics included GIS mapping for response, Whole Genome Sequencing in the Food Lab, and social media for complaint response. Summer also presented the FLIRRT online recall audit check module during the roundtable session. Matthew Coleman presented on contract inspections during a breakout session.

- Summer Williams participated in the 2018 St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant FEMA Evaluated Exercise at the State Emergency Operations Center on February 14, 2018. Summer represented the Division of Food Safety under Emergency Support Function 11 (Food and Water). The scenario included a radiological disaster at the St. Lucie Power Plant. GIS mapping was used to exercise the use of gathering information on food facilities in the area of the disaster.



Left: Map depicting retail and food processing facilities licensed under FDACS in the immediate area of the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant.

Save-the-Date: 5th Annual FLIRRT Meeting

The 5th Annual Florida Integrated Rapid Response Team Meeting will held March 20-22 in Tallahassee, Florida. The purpose of this meeting is to gather our food safety and food defense partners and learn how to better our multi agency coordination during food and feed emergencies.

Each person involved will have a better understanding of what would be expected from them and their agency in the event of a multiagency response to an adverse incident.

This year we plan to give each attendee a better idea on the interworking of a statewide activation at the State Emergency Operations Center. Attendees will include employees from Food and Drug Administration; Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR); Department of Health (DOH); Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and other Rapid Response Team (RRT) states.

Hotel/Meeting Location: Residence Inn Tallahassee Universities at the Capitol; 600 W. Gaines Street

Note: All hotel reservations will be made through the FLIRRT coordinator. Please do not call the hotel and book on your own.

If you have any questions, contact Summer Williams at Summer.Williams@FreshFromFlorida.com or 850-245-5535.

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 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.

Editor: Michael T. Turner, The Turner Network, LLC (www.TurnerNetwork.com) under contract with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry.
E-mail: flsart@turnernetwork.com

Associate Editor: LeiAnna Tucker, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry.
E-mail: LeiAnna.Tucker@FreshFromFlorida.com