



The Sentinel

Newsletter of
the Florida State
Agricultural
Response Team



Each year, thousands of acres of wildland and many homes are destroyed by fires that can erupt at any time.

Wildfire Awareness in Florida

Story by Kristin "Kris" Abel

There are more than 17 million acres of state, federal, localized, and privately-owned, forests in Florida. Most of these timberlands are deemed working forests, which are, "...land[s] carefully managed to supply wood for lumber, energy, paper and packaging..."

(nafoalliance.org/issues/working-forests). Couple this with the fact that we are in the middle of the dry season, November – April, we should all be aware of the increased likelihood of a cataclysmic wildfire.

This potential crisis is recognized on a national level by the National Fire Protection Fire Association (NFFA), who hosts a Wildfire Community Preparedness Day, which is being held on Saturday, 6 May 2023. This annual

preparedness day's central emphasis is on what all people can achieve, in, on, and around their households to not only mitigate, but defend against the dangers of wildfires. The NFFA has a dedicated webpage just for this day. For more detailed information, visit [the NFFA Wildfire Community Preparedness Day page](#) to view a 30-second Prep Day Public Service Announcement (PSA).

The NFFA guidelines that are ESF 17-related are as follows:

- [For Horses \(nfpa.org\)](http://nfpa.org)
- [For Household pets \(nfpa.org\)](http://nfpa.org)

Story continues next page.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Introducing the New FDACS and UF IFAS Partnership Video*
- *Welcome to the SART Team Kristin "Kris" Abel and Emily Nolen*
- *Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Training*

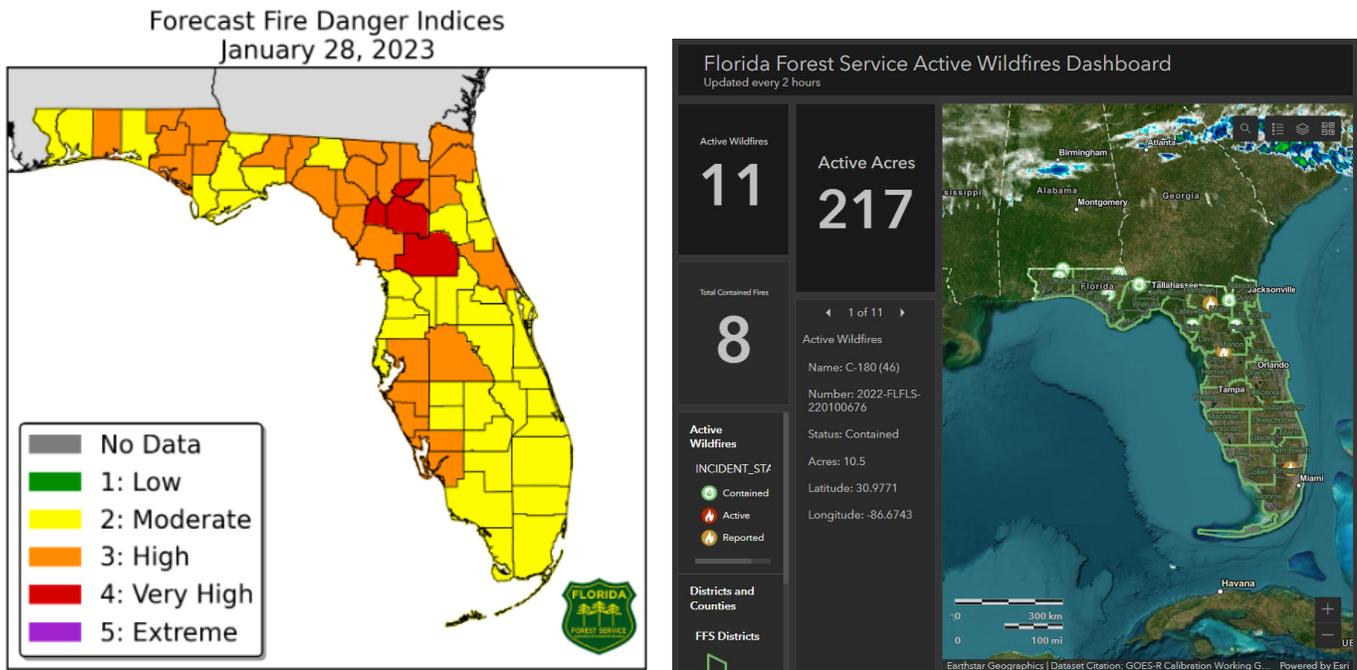
Each year, thousands of acres of wildland and many homes are destroyed by fires that can erupt at any time of the year from a variety of causes, including arson, lightning, and debris burning.

Fire protection is everyone's responsibility. Learn more at floridadisaster.org/hazards/wildfire



Fire Awareness in Florida (continued)

If we hone-in on just Florida, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the Florida Forest Service (FFS) provide resources that are easy to use and understand. There is a Fire Danger Map and Fire Danger Index (FDI) report that is updated daily, and the index is color-coded based on the present threat level, provided by the FFS. This map and FDI can be accessed at: [Florida Forest Service - Fire Danger Index Map and Report \(fdacs.gov\)](https://fdacs.gov)



FDACS also has a page dedicated to current wildfire information, that has an active wildfire dashboard, furnished by FFS, that can be found at: [Current Wildfire Information / Wildland Fire \(fdacs.gov\)](https://fdacs.gov). The dashboard is updated every two hours.

Each year, thousands of acres of wildland and many homes are destroyed by fires that can erupt at any time of the year from a variety of causes, including arson, lightning, and debris burning. Adding to the fire hazard is the growing number of people living in new communities built in areas that were once wildland. This growth places even greater pressure on the state's wildland firefighters. As a result of this growth, fire protection becomes everyone's responsibility (www.floridadisaster.org/hazards/wildfire).



Welcome to the SART Team Kristin “Kris” Abel and Emily Nolen!



Hi, I'm **Kristin Abel**, a new Government Analyst I for ESF 17 in the Division of Animal Industry but prefer to be called Kris. I am new to the Tallahassee area as I came from the Hillsborough/Polk County region and still have a small ranch there. My background is varied, but for the past 12 years I was employed by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office as a Detention Deputy and subsequently by the Hillsborough County Public Schools Security and Emergency Management Department as a School Resource Officer.

I completed my Master's in Emergency Management from Saint Leo University in 2020 and yes started my doctorate studies in 2021. On a personal note, I have 2 Quarter horses, Paul and River, a dog, Sam, a Lab/Weimaraner mix and a barn cat, Little Bit. I like to collect old cars and restore them, I currently have over 10 in various stages of restoration, and I love to shoot and watch professional football. I am very excited about this new opportunity and hope I will bring much value to the Division of Animal Industry!



Hey, I'm **Emily Nolen**, the new Government Analyst I and SART coordinator for ESF 17 in the Division of Animal Industry. I am originally from the Central Florida area and am no stranger to Tallahassee and the Big Bend area. My husband and I happily own a small ranch right outside of Tallahassee's city limits. As a graduate of FAMU's Veterinary Technology program in 2018, I went on to pass the Veterinary Technology National Exam (VTNE) later that year. As a Certified Veterinary Technologist, I have worked with both large and small animals alike, for not only routine care, but also emergency care and intensive care. I left the clinic setting in 2021 to work with FAMU Cooperative Extension in Jefferson County to bring university research pertaining to livestock and 4-H agriculture education to that area.

I have partnered with the UF/IFAS Extension Agents to bring quality agricultural programs to the local farmers of Jefferson County. On a more personal note, our farm is home to four hound dogs (Riley, Rhett, Bowden, and Jolene), three cats (Sushi, Batman, and Ninja), four goats (Birdie, Latte, Gloria, and April), ten chickens, two horses (Gracie and Halo), and one pig (Barnabas). We hope to add some cows by the end of the year. I love to trail ride with my horse Halo, read on rainy days, and spend time watching sports with my husband. I am so very excited for the opportunity to work with the ESF 17 team, and I hope to make a positive impact in our Florida communities with the Division of Animal Industry!

Introducing the New FDACS and UF IFAS Partnership Video

The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) teamed up to create a new video on their disaster response partnership.

Published in December 2022 on [YouTube](#), the video features interviews with LeiAnna Tucker (FDACS Emergency Programs Manager), Dr. Saqib Mukhtar (IF/IFAS Associate Dean for Extension, Agriculture, and Natural Resources), and Dr. Angie Lindsey (Extension Disaster Education Network [EDEN]).

EDEN is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is a collaborative multi-state effort by cooperative extension services across the country to improve the delivery of services to citizens affected by disasters.



Dr. Lindsey highlighted the important connection that agricultural extension agents have throughout the State of Florida. "We learn so much from our Extension agents and the work that they're already doing throughout the state and the work that they do within their own communities for disaster preparedness, recovery, and response," said Dr. Lindsey.

To view the video for yourself, and to like or comment, please visit:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S11Xsjd-FCw>.

Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training (FL-017)



The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) has published an online, state-certified training on pet-friendly sheltering—the first of its kind to be offered in Florida. The online training provides guidance on how to plan for and operate a pet-friendly shelter to ensure that individuals evacuating from a disaster with household pets are accommodated.

This training will include useful information on how to:

- Use the Incident Command System in pet-friendly shelter planning and operations;
- Plan for a pet-friendly shelter;
- Understand the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS Act);
- Establish partnerships for resource coordination;
- Deliver a unified message to the public before, during and after an emergency, and;
- Set up, operate and demobilize a pet-friendly shelter.

Students will receive a downloadable **Tool Kit** that offers guidance and plan templates, and a **state-certified Certificate of Completion** approved by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

COURSE DATE

August 2020

COURSE LENGTH

4 hours

COURSE FEE

Free

COURSE MODE

100% online at
www.FLSART.org

PRIMARY AUDIENCE

Emergency Managers
County Employees
Veterinary/Animal Services
Shelter Volunteers

PROVIDED BY

Florida State Agricultural
Response Team (SART)

CERTIFICATE

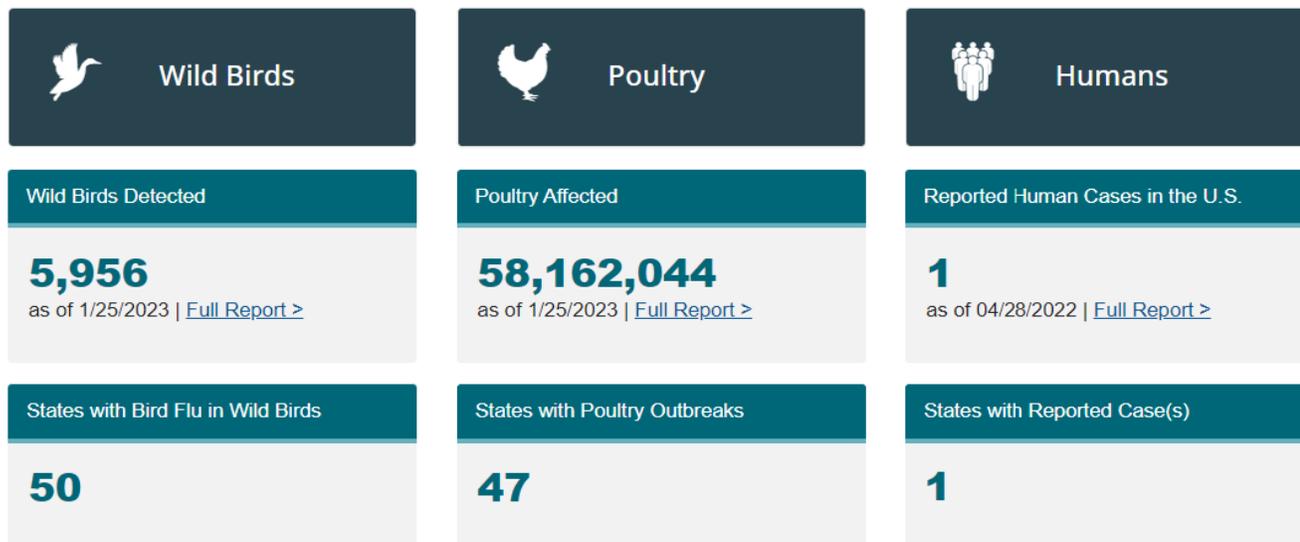
State-Certified
Course Code FL-017

POINT OF CONTACT

LeiAnna Tucker
Florida Department of
Agriculture and Consumer
Services
(850) 410-0920
LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza



CDC: [Bird Flu Current Situation Summary](#)

Avian Influenza viruses are classified by proteins of the virus: "H" proteins, of which there are 16 (H1–H16), and "N" proteins, of which there are nine (N1–N9). Many different combinations of "H" and "N" proteins are possible. Like all influenza viruses, Avian Influenza viruses are known to easily re-assort and mutate (to change) into new Avian Influenza subtypes. They can even change in their ability to infect within a subtype. Only H7 and H5 subtypes have been found to change from Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) to HPAI.

Since July 2022, there have been multiple backyard flocks in Florida confirmed with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). In addition, HPAI has been detected in wild birds in multiple states along the eastern seaboard, including Florida. For more information on avian influenza and the current situation, visit the USDA website at [USDA avian influenza](#).

Approximately two-thirds of the states in the United States, have at least one confirmed domestic poultry flock infected with HPAI during the 2021–2022 outbreak, however, some of the affected states have been released from additional movement requirements. For the current list of affected states, please visit: [USDA APHIS Confirmations of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Commercial and Backyard Flocks](#).

Due to the recent Avian Influenza detection, it is recommended that Florida poultry producers and enthusiasts (commercial and backyard) take the following precautions to minimize the risk of introduction of influenza into our Florida poultry flocks. For more information regarding avian health please visit: [USDA APHIS | Avian Health](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the FDACS, Division of Animal Industry, at (850) 410- 0900. Please visit our website for additional information regarding Avian Influenza and the requirements for moving poultry into the state at [www.FDACS.gov/AvianInfluenza](#).

Resources

- [www.FDACS.gov/AI](#)
- [Influenza | Florida Department of Health \(floridahealth.gov\)](#)
- [www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/](#)
- [How Infected Backyard Poultry Could Spread Bird Flu to People \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Avian Influenza | Avian Influenza \(Flu\) \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [United States Geological Survey, National Wildlife Health Center](#)
- [Recent Bird Flu Infections in U.S. Wild Birds and Poultry Pose a Low Risk to the Public](#)
- [Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission: Avian Influenza | FWC \(myfwc.com\)](#)



✓ Checklist: Tips To Help Keep Your Flocks Healthy

This checklist is a general guide to practicing good biosecurity, but if you have a site-specific biosecurity plan, please follow it. Commercial growers should be sure their site-specific plans follow the National Poultry Improvement Plan biosecurity principles.

- Wear personal protective equipment** or clothing and shoes that you only use when caring for your poultry. This includes boot covers or boots that can be disinfected. Change into fresh protective gear between poultry houses or coops.
- Enclosures must be empty for a thorough cleaning.** If you have a poultry house, wait until the house is empty to start the cleaning process. If you have a coop or other type of enclosure, move the birds to a separate area before cleaning.
- Remove all litter, manure, and other debris.**
- “Dry” clean all areas**—brush, scrape, and shovel off manure, feathers, and other materials. Disinfectant will not penetrate organic matter or caked-on dirt.
- “Wet” clean all surfaces**—scrub with water and detergent. Work from top to bottom and back to front.
- Rinse all surfaces carefully with water.**
- Apply disinfectant** according to the directions on the label. Be sure to use a disinfectant that is registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and indicates that it is effective against avian influenza and other poultry diseases.
- Leave the enclosure empty** until it is completely dry. Use fans and/or open doors and windows to help speed the drying process. Wet surfaces can be harmful to poultry.
- When you’re done, remove and discard** your protective gear. If using dedicated clothing and boots, change clothing and clean and disinfect your boots.
- Wash your hands thoroughly** with soap and water. Wash and dry your dedicated clothing.

For more information about how to keep your flocks healthy, follow **Defend the Flock** on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and visit www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock.



African Swine Fever Update

In 2021, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the detection of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the Dominican Republic (Announcement below). ASF is a foreign animal disease. Increased biosecurity and vigilance is warranted. Please report any sick swine with clinical signs consistent with ASF to the State Veterinarian's Office through the e-mail address RAD@FDACS.gov, or by calling (850) 410-0900 (during office hours) or 1-800-342-5869 (after hours). You can also [file a report online](#).

Clinical signs of ASF in swine can include reddening of the skin, listlessness, vomiting, bloody diarrhea, conjunctivitis, lack of an escape response, trembling, complete loss of hind leg functioning, and high death loss.

Clinical Warning Signs of an ASF Infection

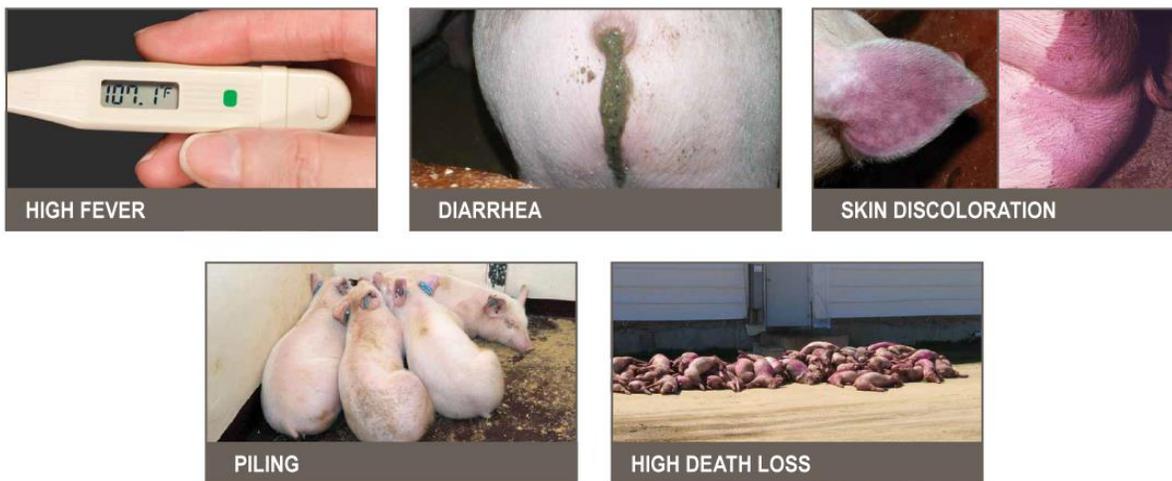


Photo Credit: USDA APHIS Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center

It is important to note that Classical Swine Fever has been present in Haiti and the Dominican Republic for many years and, therefore, the U.S. does not receive pork products or live swine imports from either country. The highest risk of ASF introduction into the U.S. is from pork products brought in by international travelers via sea or air. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection has increased inspections of products and personal items brought into the U.S from affected countries.

More information regarding ASF can be found on the USDA [website](#).
[Click here for the FDACS Announcement on ASF.](#)

In the News...

- Animal Disease Updates:
 - [Giant African Land Snail](#) (FDACS)
 - [Lychee Erinose Mite](#) (FDACS)
- SART Partner Updates:
 - [Farm Bureau Members Shine at AFBF Convention in Puerto Rico](#) (Florida Farm Bureau)
 - [Enforcement of All Federal VCPR Requirements for Telemedicine to Resume](#) (FVMA)

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN February



	North	Central	South
 EASY TO TRANSPLANT	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Ginger, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes	Arugula, Chinese Cabbage, Eggplant, Endive, Ginger, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches
 TRANSPLANT WITH CARE	Celery, Mustard, Potatoes, Spinach	Boniato, Celery, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes	Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squashes, Luffa, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes
 USE SEEDS	Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Peas (English), Radish, Squashes, Turnips, Watermelon	Beans (bush, pole, lima), Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Onion (bunching), Peas (English, Southern), Radish, Squashes, Turnips, Watermelon	Beans (bush, pole, lima), Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Chayote, Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (English, Southern), Radish, Squashes, Watermelon

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Gardening SOLUTIONS

GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu
Text only: go.ufl.edu/EdibleText



UF/IFAS Florida Gardening Calendars

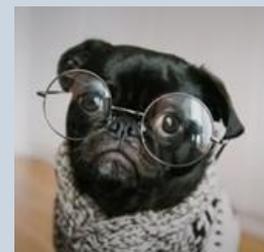
The [Gardening Calendar publications](#) on the UF/IFAS Solutions for Your Life website gives Florida gardeners a monthly guide for what to plant and do in their gardens and includes links to useful gardening websites, all based on University of Florida research and expertise. Three different editions of the calendar provide specific tips for each of Florida's climate zones—North, Central, and South.

[What to Plant in February - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences \(ufl.edu\)](#)

Counties, Is Your Contact Information up to date on the SART Website?

Please review your county emergency contact information at <https://flsart.org/resource/countyinformation.jsp>.

If you need to make changes to your county contact information, please send a request to LeiAnna Tucker at LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov.





Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Training

Florida State Animal Response Coalition (FLSARC) provides Small Animal Emergency Sheltering training for Florida communities. These courses teach the unique procedures, skills, and knowledge necessary to build and operate a temporary emergency animal shelter in response to natural disasters and animal cruelty cases. These courses were created and designed by experts from many organizations including Florida SART, University of Florida Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) Team, and leadership of FLSARC. This training is state-certified by the Florida Division of Emergency Management. To register, visit: <https://flsarc.org/training>

Awareness Level	Operations Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 11, 2023 March 5, 2023 March 11, 2023 April 15, 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 18-19, 2023 March 6-7, 2023 March 25-26, 2023 April 22-23, 2023

Animal Technical Rescue Training

Our SART partner for animal technical rescue (ATR) is the UF Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service based at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Through this partnership, the Animal Technical Rescue operations level training course was first developed in 2011. This training is state-certified by the Florida Division of Emergency Management, recognized by the Florida State Fire College, and meets National Fire Protection Associations standards. Although this class is available to any interested person, it is primarily targeted toward law enforcement, fire/rescue, animal control officers, and veterinary professionals. Animal Technical Rescue teams are not medical teams, rather they are trained in proper techniques to safely extricate animals from hazardous emergency situations.

AWR (8 Hours)	OPS (24 Hours)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 7, 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 25-27, 2023 March 13-15, 2023

To register, visit: https://flsart.org/training/animal_rescue

Compassion Fatigue Strategies+ Training

Transforming empathic distress (aka compassion fatigue) is possible for you and your staff. That's why the Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida is once again offering its Compassion Fatigue Strategies online course, beginning on February 6, 2023. Please see the flyer on the following page for complete details.

Florida Animal Control Association 2023 Conference

The Florida Animal Control Association 2023 Conference 'Collaborate to Elevate' is scheduled for February 24-26, 2023. Visit: <https://floridaanimalcontrol.org/conference>

2023 SART Planning Conference – COMING SOON!

Plans for the 2023 SART Planning Conference is underway! A save the date will be sent in early 2023 and county ESF 17 contacts will be contacted for invitation.

Compassion Fatigue Strategies+ Training



Compassion Fatigue Strategies⁺ AN 8 WEEK INTERACTIVE ONLINE COURSE, 15 CE CREDITS WITH JESSICA DOLCE MS, CCFE

Need help with stress, burnout, empathic strain, or moral distress? Join us!

Today's animal welfare and veterinary medical professionals are pushing the boundaries of what's possible for animals, people, and the organizations that heal, connect, and protect them. If that's you, it's easy to feel like nothing you do is ever good enough. The work feels never-ending. Taking care of your own needs might seem impossible.

Transforming empathic distress (aka compassion fatigue) is absolutely possible for you and your staff. That's why the Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida is once again offering its Compassion Fatigue Strategies online course with certified compassion fatigue educator Jessica Dolce.

This course will help you recognize signs and symptoms of compassion fatigue, burnout, and vicarious trauma, learn how to reduce stress injury, increase your self-care and team-care practices, build compassion satisfaction, restore resiliency, and make successful changes in your life and in your organization.

[Registration is open now](#) to anyone who works with animals. The course is eligible for 15 credits of CE for veterinarians in Florida, Certified Animal Welfare Administrator (CAWA), and National Animal Control Association (NACA).

Designed for busy professionals, this online course is available 24/7 and self-paced for the flexibility you need. You'll have access to all of the class materials on day one and then you can do the work at your own speed. Students will also get together for 4 live calls to practice stress reduction and mindfulness techniques - this is like 4 hours of self-care, built right into the class. Calls will be recorded and shared for those unable to attend the live sessions. Plus, we talk about what we're learning and experiencing on the discussion boards - so there's daily support from Jessica!

The course runs from February 6 through April 2, 2023. More details at: <https://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/education/continuing-education/compassion-fatigue-strategies>



Sponsored by Florida SART

ANIMAL TECHNICAL RESCUE TRAINING

Target Audience:

Fire/Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Animal Control, Veterinary Professionals, Extension Agents, Livestock Industry Stakeholders

Location:

Florida State Fire College
11655 NW Gainesville Rd
Ocala, FL 34482

Course Fee:

Free, sponsored by Florida SART

Training Date

AWR-8 hours
Tues., Feb. 7, 2023
OPS-24 hours
Feb. 25-27, 2023
Mar. 13-15, 2023

All trainings 8 AM to 5 PM
CEs provided by
Florida State Fire College

Point of Contact:

Brandi Phillips
brandikphillips@ufl.edu

Register for free at
bit.ly/2023ATRTraining

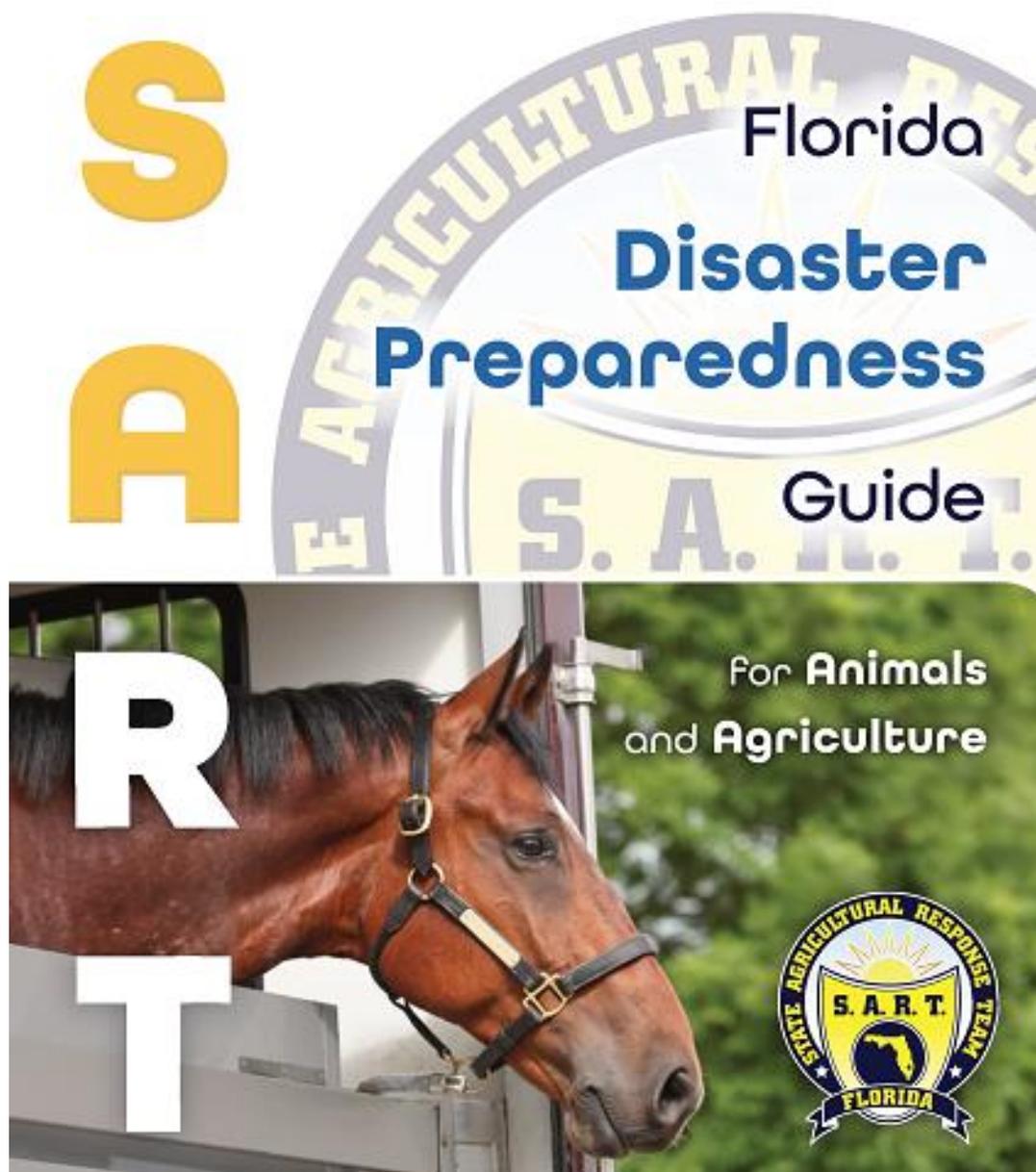


SART Publishes Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture

The FDACS Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture developed by the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and Emergency Support Function 17 (ESF 17) has been complete and posted to the SART website, flsart.org under the "Resources" tab.

This Guide has been developed to help County Emergency Managers respond to disasters that impact animals and agriculture within the state of Florida. Please use the link provided to take you directly to the new [Florida SART Disaster Preparedness Guide](#).

This Guide was developed with the collaboration of the Florida SART partners from across Florida. Many Florida SART partner agencies and FDACS staff contributed to this Guide through their expertise, editing and review. These Florida SART partners are recognized throughout the Guide by their logos.



Disasters and Mental Health Online Training



Over the course of four modules, this 2.5-hour training sponsored by Florida SART and carried out by University of Florida Family, Youth, and Community Sciences (FYCS) faculty members Drs. Heidi Radunovich and Angie Lindsey provides focused information on mental health stress and disaster recovery within the agricultural sector. It is geared towards:

- Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) members and partners
- UF/IFAS Extension faculty and staff
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services employees
- Farmers, ranchers and their families
- Agricultural workers
- First responders
- Organizations providing services within agricultural communities
- Any community members who are active during disaster response

Training can be accessed at <https://e-learning.ag/courses/disasters-mental-health/>

1

Disaster Stress & Mental Health

45 min. content + 15 min. activity

- The unique impacts disasters have on agriculture
- Stress and the impacts it has on the body
- Disaster stress
- Coping skills to manage stress
- The differences between stress & trauma
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Case study activity

2

Community Recovery After Disasters

30 min. content + 15 min. activity

- The four phases of community response
- Factors impacting individual recovery
- Long-term problems in disaster recovery
- Factors impacting community recovery
- How different types of disasters impact recovery
- Ways in which a community can plan for a successful recovery
- Case study activity

3

Coping & Providing Support After Disasters

30 min. content + 10 min. activity

- Ways to manage stress
- Specific physical and mental coping techniques
- Providing support after disasters
- Best practices in supporting children
- Self care key practices for first responders
- Resources for additional help and referrals
- Knowledge Check Quiz

4

Disaster Stress & Mental Health Resources

15 min. content

- The final module discusses special programs for disaster health & mental health resources, resources for producers and farmworkers, and resources for the general public. It also includes a Mental Health Resource guide which can be downloaded.

Free, self-paced training with certification!

Access training through QR code



Food Safety and Food Defense Report

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

FDACS Division of Food Safety is responsible for assuring the public of a safe, wholesome, and properly represented food supply through permitting and inspection of food establishments, inspection of food products, and performance of specialized laboratory analysis on a variety of food products sold or produced in the state. The Division of Food Safety monitors food from the farm gate, through processing and distribution, to the retail point of purchase.



Emergencies can happen, especially with extreme weather conditions. When they do, the best strategy is to already have a plan in place. This includes knowing the proper food safety precautions to take before, during, and after a power outage — and being prepared to safely handle food and water in the event that flooding occurs.

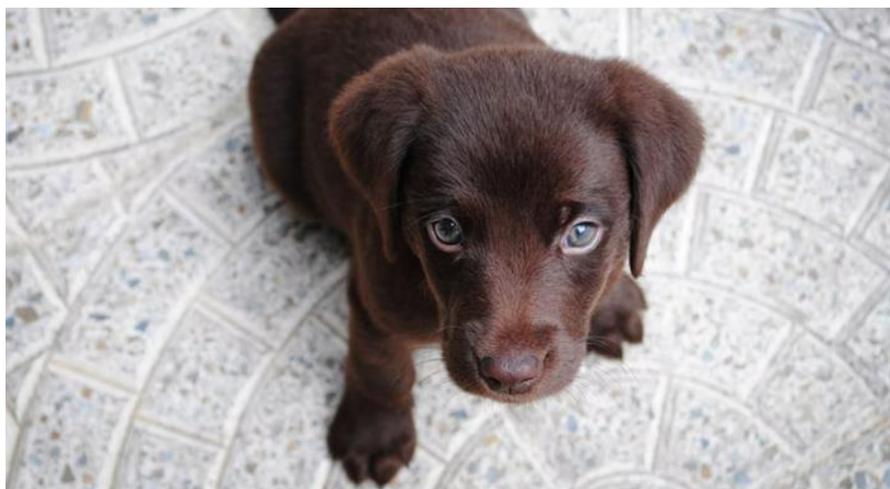
Prepare Yourself Before Power Emergencies

1. Make sure you have appliance thermometers in your refrigerator and freezer.
 - Check to ensure that the freezer temperature is at or below 0° F, and the refrigerator is at or below 40° F.
 - In case of a power outage, the appliance thermometers will indicate the temperatures in the refrigerator and freezer to help you determine if the food is safe.
2. Freeze containers of water for ice to help keep food cold in the freezer, refrigerator, or coolers in case the power goes out. If your normal water supply is contaminated or unavailable, the melting ice will also supply drinking water.
3. Freeze refrigerated items such as leftovers, milk, and fresh meat and poultry that you may not need immediately. This helps keep them at a safe temperature longer.
4. Group food together in the freezer. This helps the food stay cold longer.
5. Have coolers on hand to keep refrigerated food cold if the power will be out for more than 4 hours.
6. Purchase or make ice cubes in advance and freeze gel packs ahead of time. Store all of these in the freezer for future use in the refrigerator or in coolers.
7. Check out local sources to know where dry ice and block ice can be purchased, in case it should be needed.
8. Store food on shelves that will be safely out of the way of contaminated water in case of flooding.
9. Make sure to have a supply of bottled water stored where it will be as safe as possible from flooding. If your bottled water has an odor, do not drink or use it. Instead, dispose of it, or if applicable, call your bottled water provider to make arrangements to get a replacement.

During an emergency, if you use food or beverage containers to hold non-food substances like gasoline, dispose of them after use and do not recycle them.

Read more at: <https://www.fda.gov/media/72124/download>

SART Resources and Links



Large Animal Incident Response Plan Template

<https://flsart.org/resource/TLAER>

Pet Sheltering Resources

<https://flsart.org/resource/petshelter>

Ask IFAS: Disaster Preparedness and Recovery

https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/disaster_preparedness_and_recovery

Get Involved! Florida Veterinary Corps

<https://flsart.org/getInvolved/vetcorps.jsp>

Dealing with a Florida Winter Weather Event

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FY1407>

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** 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.

Editing Services: The Turner Network, LLC 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@FDACS.gov