

APPENDIX XVII: EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 17 - ANIMAL AND AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

PRIMARY AGENCY: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART): University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida/College of Veterinary Medicine, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Farm Service Agency, USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS)/Veterinary Services, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services, USDA/APHIS/Animal Care, Extension Disaster Education Network, Florida Department of Health, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Farm Bureau Federation, Florida Veterinary Medical Association, Florida Veterinary Technician Association, Florida Animal Control Association, Florida Aquaculture Association, Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association, Humane Society of the United States, The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Southeast Milk, Inc., Florida Cattlemen's Association, Florida Association of Kennel Clubs, Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association, Florida Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, Florida State Animal Response Coalition, Florida Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of Emergency Support Function 17 (ESF 17) is to coordinate the state's response for animal, agricultural, food safety, and vector control issues in case of an emergency or disaster situation. To accomplish this goal, ESF 17 oversees the emergency management functions of preparedness, recovery, mitigation, and response with all agencies and organizations involved in the state's response activities.

II. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. GENERAL

1. Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, (State Emergency Management Act) mandates the development of the Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (the Plan), which establishes a framework through which the State of Florida prepares for, responds to, recovers from, and mitigates the impacts of a wide variety of disasters that could adversely affect the health, safety and/or general welfare of the residents of the state.

2. The Plan describes the basic strategies, assumptions, operational goals, objectives and mechanisms through which the state will mobilize resources and conduct response activities.
3. To facilitate effective operations, the Plan adopts a functional approach that groups the types of assistance to be provided into 18 Emergency Support Functions. Each Emergency Support Function is headed by a lead or primary agency or organization, which has been selected based on its authorities, resources, and capabilities in that functional area.
4. The primary agency appoints an Emergency Coordinating Officer(s) to manage that function at the State Emergency Operations Center.
5. The Emergency Coordination Officers and staff of the Division of Emergency Management form the State Emergency Response Team. The State Emergency Response Team serves as the primary operational mechanism through which state assistance to local governments is managed.
6. State assistance will be provided to impacted counties under the authority of the State Coordinating Officer, on behalf of the Governor, as head of the State Emergency Response Team.

B. ORGANIZATION

1. ESF 17 is responsible for animal, agricultural, food safety, and vector control issues.
2. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is the lead agency for ESF 17.
3. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry, is responsible for providing sufficient personnel to staff the ESF 17, 24 hours per day, seven days per week while operational or as requested by the Division of Emergency Management.
4. A person, or persons, from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services', Division of Animal Industry will be designated as the Emergency Coordinating Officer(s) for ESF 17.
5. The Emergency Coordination Officer(s) will provide oversight for ESF 17 and duties include, but are not limited to: activating and coordinating ESF 17 Incident Management Teams during an activation; assigning requests for assistance, and ensuring that requests for assistance are prioritized, met, and documented; assigning staff for support at the State Emergency Operations Center, and; liaison with other Emergency Support Functions at the State Emergency Operations Center.

6. ESF 17 Incident Management Teams include an Incident Management Team for animal and agricultural issues, led by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry, an Incident Management Team for vector control issues led by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Agricultural Environmental Services, and an Incident Management Team for food safety issues led by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Food Safety.
7. Other Divisions and Offices from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provide direct support of ESF 17. These include the Division of Agricultural Environmental Services, Division of Aquaculture, Division of Food Safety, Division of Plant Industry, Florida Forest Service, Office of Agricultural Water Policy, Office of Agricultural Technology Services, and the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement. Depending upon the disaster or emergency, these Divisions and Offices will assist the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as the lead agency for ESF 17.
8. The Emergency Coordination Officer(s) and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services', Division of Animal Industry provide leadership and administrative support for ESF 17 and its Incident Management Teams.

C. NOTIFICATION

1. The State Watch Office will notify the Emergency Coordinating Officer(s) for ESF 17 when an area of Florida is threatened or has been impacted by an emergency or disaster event.
2. The ESF 17 Emergency Coordinating Officer(s) will notify all respective ESF 17 personnel and support agencies of the activation.

D. ACTIONS

1. Preparedness - ESF 17 will:
 - a. Train personnel to staff ESF 17 at the State Emergency Operations Center during an emergency activation.
 - b. Prepare ESF 17 by coordinating preparedness activities and training through meetings, conferences and exercises for its support agencies.
 - c. Prepare ESF 17 Incident Management Teams through training, drills and exercises.

2. Response - ESF 17 will:
 - a. Staff ESF 17 at the State Emergency Operations Center.
 - b. Support the actions of the State Emergency Response Team.
 - c. Activate ESF 17 support agencies to set incident priorities, to coordinate and integrate the communications and information flow, and to provide resources for ESF 17 and its Incident Management Teams.
 - d. Activate the ESF 17 Incident Management Team(s).
 - e. Respond to resource requests from local governments in need.
 - f. Coordinate response activities with local government emergency management agencies and local ESF 17 cooperators.
 - g. Support the activities of other Emergency Support Functions as needed.
3. Recovery - ESF 17 will:
 - a. Provide support to the Joint Field Office, as needed, after the State Emergency Operations Center is deactivated.
 - b. Support the State Emergency Response Team until the local system is self-sustaining.
 - c. Initiate the financial reimbursement process for these activities when such support is available.
4. Mitigation – ESF 17 will:
 - a. Identify locations of animal and agricultural critical infrastructure and assist with mitigation activities as needed.
 - b. Identify and seek funds for disaster-proofing critical animal and agricultural infrastructure as needed.
 - c. Compile Geographical Information Systems data related to animal and agricultural emergency management issues, in cooperation with the Division of Emergency Management and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

E. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

1. The direct chain of command for ESF 17 is as follows: Governor, State Emergency Coordinating Officer, State Emergency Response Team Chief, Operations Chief, Human Services Branch Chief (**see Chapter 4, Section M of the Basic Plan**), ESF 17 Emergency Coordinating Officer(s), ESF 17 Incident Management Teams Incident Commanders.
2. Also providing supervision and guidance to ESF 17 is the leadership of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and its Divisions of Animal Industry, Agricultural Environmental Services, and Food Safety.
3. The ESF 17 Emergency Coordination Officer(s) activates Incident Management Teams that set up and operate from Incident Command Posts, which coordinate response activities in the impacted area(s).

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

F. PRIMARY AGENCY – FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

1. Provide leadership in directing, coordinating, and integrating overall state efforts related to animal and agricultural issues during a disaster or emergency.
2. Coordinate and direct the activation and deployment of support agencies and resources.
3. Identify and train sufficient personnel to adequately support ESF 17 at the State Emergency Operations Center during an activation.
4. Coordinate activities with other Emergency Support Functions.
5. Provide leadership and be actively engaged in Emergency Support Function 17.
6. Assist counties with identifying strategies for ESF 17 preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery.

G. SUPPORT AGENCIES

Emergency Support 17 is supported by a number of supporting agencies within SART including, but not limited to:

1. Florida Department of Health
 - a. Assist in the diagnosis, prevention, and control of zoonotic diseases of public health significance.

- b. Provide guidance in the proper techniques and procedures to adequately protect ESF 17 responders from contagious and infectious human and zoonotic diseases.
 - c. Assist in ESF 17 response activities with the utilization of personnel, equipment and facilities.
- 2. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 - a. Assist in the evacuation of wildlife and exotic animals kept in major exhibits, circus facilities and with wildlife dealers, as needed.
 - b. Conduct damage assessments of permitted facilities housing wildlife or exotic animals.
 - c. Use specialized personnel and equipment and coordinate the capture of potentially dangerous or hazardous wildlife or exotic animals.
 - d. Assist in ESF 17 response activities with the utilization of personnel, equipment and facilities.
- 3. University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine
 - a. Provide veterinary medical assistance for animals during a disaster or emergency.
 - b. Coordinate with the Florida Veterinary Medical Association response activities involving Florida's veterinary practitioners.
 - c. Provide expertise in the area of animal disease control and eradication.
 - d. Assist in ESF 17 response activities with the utilization of personnel, equipment and facilities.
- 4. University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Cooperative Extension and Research Service
 - a. Identify and educate commercial and noncommercial animal and agricultural producers in pertinent emergency management issues.
 - b. Provide expertise in the area of production agriculture as it relates to ESF 17 response activities.
 - c. Assist in ESF 17 response activities with the utilization of personnel, equipment and facilities.

5. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
 - a. Assist in the diagnosis, prevention, and control of animal and plant diseases that threaten the animal and agricultural industries of Florida.
 - b. Assist in ESF 17 response activities related to wildlife issues.
 - c. Assist in ESF 17 response activities with the utilization of personnel, equipment and facilities.
6. United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency
 - a. Assist in damage assessment activities related to animal and agricultural industries.
 - b. Provide information and assistance to impacted animal and agricultural producers about USDA-sponsored damage assistance programs.
 - c. Assist in ESF 17 response activities with the utilization of personnel, equipment and facilities.

IV. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- H. ESF 17, with assistance from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, will be responsible for managing financial matters related to resources that are procured during an incident.
- I. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will provide an organizational code for the existing incident. All expenditures by ESF 17 shall reference this organizational code for cost recovery subsequent to the incident period.
- J. In a federally declared disaster, a reimbursement formula is established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. When the reimbursement is less than 100 percent, the Governor's Office, together with legislative leadership, may reimburse agencies/departments for the difference. In some instances, the agencies/departments may be required to assume this financial responsibility from their regular budgets.

II. REFERENCES AND AUTHORITIES

- A. Florida Statutes, Emergency Management, Chapter 252.
- B. State of Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- C. Florida Field Operations Guide (FFOG).