

Recommendation #1

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs (DCA)

Brief Description: Work with Florida's counties, cities and the media to develop and implement a campaign on emergency preparedness issues.

Points of Contact: Molly Payne, Gailee Cardwell (850) 922-1732

Status:

Since 1993, DCA's Division of Emergency Management has created an aggressive hurricane public awareness campaign through partnerships with private non-profits and the private industry. While working with the Florida Association of Broadcasters (FAB), nearly 25 separate public service announcements have been created that include topics ranging from "evacuation" to "post-disaster assistance." All of the PSAs have been aired on statewide television and radio stations as part of FAB's Non-sustaining Commercial Agreement program, which allows the state to purchase air time between 6 a.m. to midnight at 1/4 of the station's regular advertising rate. In addition, county emergency management offices are encouraged to maintain contact with local media and make the PSAs available for broadcast on regular and cable television. All of the Division's PSAs are produced in English and Spanish and are close-captioned for the hearing impaired. In 1996, "The Hurricane Survival Test," a 30-minute television special, was aired in all 12 Florida television markets. A hurricane awareness special also was aired in the summer of 1994.

The public information campaigns have provided a heightened awareness for family hurricane and other disaster planning. Brochures from DEM, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), American Red Cross (ARC) and the National Weather Service are widely distributed at public seminars, driver's license bureau locations, mobile home and condominium associations. Printed materials are also distributed by other state, city and county governments to ensure people with special needs receive this information.

New training video tapes also have been produced to educate the public, emergency managers and elected officials about the emergency response and recovery processes, including the Division's concept of operations between the state and local Emergency Operations Centers.

Through the development of the Department's Internet web site, news releases and other essential information are posted for the public's use. Also, Plans are under way to allow visitors to the home page to subscribe to DCA's news and information items.

Lastly, DCA and DEM employees regularly speak at seminars and civic meetings regarding hurricane preparedness and family disaster planning. This campaign includes bringing the emergency awareness information to schools, public safety seminars, public forums and conferences. Specifically, the campaign has focused on delivering information to children in grades 2-6. This program is supported by the Governor's initiative of continually providing disaster education to Florida's children.

Recommendation #2

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Develop procedures to use the mass media to broadcast emergency information to the public.

Point of Contact: Molly Payne, Gailee Cardwell

(850) 922-1732

Status:

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 14 of the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) is designed to provide emergency information to the public by enhancing media access. ESF 14 provides information to the media through

coordinated news releases. When there is a potential threat of a natural disaster, ESF 14 provides preparedness actions to statewide media. Coordinated recovery information is provided after a disaster to help victims seek disaster assistance.

Public information is transmitted very quickly by a rapid facsimile system to more than 150 media outlets in Florida, including county emergency operations centers. Public information also is posted on the Department's Internet web site for greater access.

Standardized, pre-scripted news releases have been formatted so counties will become familiar with the types of information that will be issued during hurricane emergencies. This information contains pre-storm advice, protective actions to be taken during a storm and recovery information following the storm.

Members of the Division's management staff have received training on how to respond to media inquiries. The Division's staff meteorologist is trained to incorporate forecasts and preparedness information during interviews. The Governor routinely addresses the media during emergencies to ensure important information is conveyed to the public.

Recommendation #3

Primary Agency: County Governments

Brief Description: Work with telephone companies to have emergency information published in telephone directories.

Point of Contact: Molly Payne, Gailee Cardwell

(850) 922-1740

Status:

As part of its overall public information strategies, the Department of Community Affairs and DEM continue to work with the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) in establishing better methods of relaying emergency information to the public. FEPA has worked with the Public Service Commission and other agencies to gain the cooperation of placing emergency information in telephone books. Phone companies have agreed to devote at least one page for this information while placement of additional information is negotiated between the local agency and the telephone company.

Shelter locations have been published in local telephone books, along with evacuation routes, emergency telephone numbers, evacuation and flood-prone areas, location and pre-designated information centers and other crucial information needed to protect life and property.

Recommendation #4

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Conduct an assessment of the Florida Emergency Broadcast System.

Point of Contact: Harold Joyner (850) 413-9839

Status:

Since Hurricane Andrew, the 'FEBS' was abolished and renamed the "Emergency Alert System (EAS)" by the Federal Communications Commission.

The success of Florida's EAS relies upon the cooperation of local media outlets and emergency management offices to ensure timely emergency messages are transmitted. The Division has met with every local broadcast area chair and every

emergency manager to ensure this partnership continues. The Division works closely with the Florida Association of Broadcasters, the National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the cable industry to ensure the necessary equipment and procedures are maintained. The backbone of Florida's EAS relies on the Emergency Satellite Communications System thus reducing the reliance on commercial telephone lines and radio antennas. Each of the primary EAS radio stations have a link to the state's satellite system.

Florida's EAS plan is complete and it was approved by the Federal Communications Commission in March 1997.

Recommendation #5

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: The Legislature should provide funding to ensure that each county emergency management agency be linked to the National Warning System (NAWAS).

Point of Contact: Craig Fugate (850) 413-9837

Status:

The 1993 Florida Legislature provided funding for NAWAS connections in every Florida county. However, in anticipation of FEMA eliminating the NAWAS requirement, DCA created a statewide emergency satellite system that serves as backup communications between the state and the counties. In June 1997, there were 107 satellite terminals at every county warning point, the state's National Weather Service offices, the National Hurricane Center, FEMA and every Primary Emergency Alert System radio station. The Division maintains two portable satellite dishes that can be deployed to an impacted area to ensure voice and data communications remain following a catastrophic disaster. No county emergency management office maintains the NAWAS, but the State Warning Point still maintains a NAWAS connection to FEMA.

This NAWAS point would serve as a primary entry point for National emergency messages from the White House.

Recommendation #6

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: NAWAS should remain the primary means of communications among federal, state, and county emergency management officials.

Point of Contact: Craig Fugate (850) 413-9837

Status:

When the Lewis Report was being prepared, NAWAS was the only available emergency communications system available. The DCA/Division of Emergency Management has since created a more sophisticated, reliable and technologically-advanced backup warning and communications system. The emergency satellite communications system (E-SATCOM) has voice, data, hard copy and video capabilities. NAWAS is no longer considered a primary means of providing warning information. (See Recommendation #5).

Recommendation #7

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Funding to provide high frequency radios within each county's designated 24-hour warning point.

Point of Contact: Craig Fugate (850) 413-9837

Status:

At the time of the preparation of the Lewis Report, High Frequency Radios were viewed as the logical back-up to the NAWAS system. Now, as the more technologically-advanced and more capable emergency satellite communications system is being used, current High Frequency capabilities will be maintained, but not enhanced, as a secondary back-up system.

Recommendation #8

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Funding to install local government radios (LGRs) with remote capability within each county's 24-hour warning point.

Point of Contact: Craig Fugate (850) 413-9837

Status:

The LGR radio system has not been used or been relied upon by the counties since the installation of the state's satellite communications system and now is currently in use for local base to mobile communications in a few counties. The move of the EOC and State Warning Point to the new location predicated the loss of LGR capabilities by the

State Warning Point and the capability to operate on the LGR radio will not be pursued. The counties are aware of the change and have agreed with us that the LGR concept did not work in the past and could never work as well as the satellite system.

Recommendation #9

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: DCA should adopt a revised evacuation element to include specific regional and inter-regional planning provisions.

Point of Contact: Cicero Hartsfield (850) 413-9893

Status:

On-going efforts continue as DCA/DEM develops a standard policy for all evacuation studies that looks at moving people regionally to safe shelter. Also, the Division has developed statewide operational sheltering and evacuation plans. Based on meetings of the original Statewide Evacuation and Sheltering Task Force, and subsequent meetings held with all the counties, two draft documents have been produced at this time: *Florida Host Shelter Plan for Hurricane Evacuations* and the *1996 Coordinated Hurricane Protective Action Plan*. Both documents address statewide evacuation and sheltering procedures. *The Coordinated Hurricane Protective Action Plan* has been used during recent hurricane threats.

Recommendation #10

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Amend Rule 9G-7, Florida Administrative Code (FAC), to ensure county evacuation plans are coordinated with the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).

Point of Contact: Cicero Hartsfield (850) 413-9893

Status:

Revised Rule 9G-6 and 9G-7 became effective in May 1995 and it includes the minimum criteria for county and municipal evacuation plans. Also, as mentioned in Recommendation #9, the Division of Emergency Management has developed the Coordinated Hurricane Protective Action Plan that identifies the operational requirements and consequences of a large evacuation. The plan is being reviewed by members of the State Transportation Operational Plan (STOP) task force who will recommend and develop a model coordinated, multi-county traffic operations plan.

Recommendation #11

Primary Agency: Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)

Brief Description: Require hospitals, nursing homes, adult congregate living facilities and other residential care facilities to maintain evacuation plans as a condition of license.

Point of Contact: Marshall E. Kelley, Director

AHCA, Division of Health

Quality Assurance

(850) 487-2527

Status:

Public Law 93-211 amended the following statutes to require the maintenance of emergency management plans:

- s. 393.067, F.S. - Residential Care Facilities,
- s. 395.1005, F.S. - Hospitals,
- s. 400.23, F.S. - Nursing Homes and related facilities,
- s 400.441, F.S. - Assisted Living Facilities formerly called adult congregate living facilities.

As of April 1997, such facilities have been actively preparing plans and having them approved by local emergency management agencies as a condition of licensure.

Recommendation #12

Primary Agency: Agency for Health Care Administration

Brief Description: Enforce severe penalties for residential care facilities that fail to follow approved evacuation plans. At a minimum, this would include loss of license or probationary measures.

Point of Contact: Marshall E. Kelley, Director

AHCA, Division of Health Quality Assurance (850) 487-2527

Status:

Public Law 93-211 amended the various Florida Statutes pertaining to health care facilities that now include the requirement for maintaining emergency management plans. All the statutes have provisions for penalties to include: administrative fines; moratoriums on admissions suspensions and revocation of licenses for violations of the Statutes and any Rules adopted from them. Failure to follow an approved emergency plan would be grounds for action by the Agency. DEM has continued to provide technical assistance to local emergency management agencies and the responsible state health care agencies with oversight over residential care facilities.

Recommendation #13

Primary Agency: The 1993 Legislature

Brief Description: Amend Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, to direct the Department of Community Affairs to establish a statewide refuge of last resort strategy.

Point of Contact: Mike McDonald (850) 413-9953

Status:

In House Bill 911, the Legislature directs DCA to include a shelter component that establishes strategies for refuge of last resort programs. The DCA, Division of Emergency Management (DEM), funded a study with the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council to study the feasibility of identifying refuges of last resort.

Recommendation #14

Primary Agencies: Department of Transportation (FDOT)

Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Coordination and automatic lifting of tolls.

Points of Contact: DOT: Steve Decker, (850) 488-3546

Christine Speer, (850) 488-5687

DCA: Robert Byerts (850) 922-1675

Status:

The Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) was not able to implement a rule by June 1, 1993, for the automatic lifting of tolls because changes in F.S. 338.55 were required. The 1994 Legislature did make revisions to FS 338.55 enabling the Secretary of Transportation to delegate the authority to suspend tolls in support of emergency evacuations to the DOT Director of Toll Operations. Concurrent with the legislative activities, and initiated upon final actions, the Director of Toll Operations developed a written DOT Procedure and Plan that provides for immediate lifting of tolls, identifies all tolls necessary to be lifted, and facilitates constant, uninterrupted traffic flow through all toll plazas for evacuees. Implementation of the DOT toll lifting plan is coordinated with Emergency Support Functions (ESF)-1, Transportation, and ESF-16, Law Enforcement and Security, in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management (DEM), in May of 1996, initiated the Evacuation Planning and Coordination element of the State's Protective Actions under Florida's (post-Andrew) Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). In 1997, evacuation planning and coordination continues to be improved between and among Florida's coastal counties, the SEOC, receiving or host counties, and the various ESFs which have evacuation and sheltering responsibilities. This evacuation planning and coordination effort initiated by DEM as enhanced the DOT Toll Operations' ability to timely lift tolls in support of an evacuation.

Recommendation #15

Primary Agency: Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

Brief Description: Toll lifting coordination with Florida Highway Patrol.

Points of Contact: DOT: Steve Decker: (850) 488-3546 Christine Speer (850) 488-5687

DCA: Robert Byerts: (850) 922-1675

Status:

The 1994 Legislative revisions to F.S. 338.55 enabled the Secretary of Transportation to delegate toll suspension authority to the DOT Director of Toll Operations, who in turn developed and implemented a toll lifting plan for evacuations. That plan and the existing DOT Toll Operations Manual address coordinating with the FHP. For routine, day-to-day public and traffic safety needs, the DOT toll plaza managers at the local on-scene level can suspend tolls immediately upon request from the FHP. For emergency evacuation purposes, the lifting of tolls is coordinated with and through the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) by the DOT Toll Operations personnel as delineated above under Recommendation 14, to ensure continuity of direction and guidance provided FHP and DOT field personnel.

Recommendation #16

Primary Agency: Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

Brief Description: Reversible lane system for Turnpike and other limited access highways.

Point of Contact: DOT: Steve Decker, (850) 488-3546

Gary Sokolow, (850) 488-9747

DCA: Mike McDonald, (850) 413-9953

Status:

The Florida Department of Transportation conducted a study in May 1993 to determine the technical feasibility of implementing a reversible lane system on Florida's limited access highways during an evacuation. Although it may be technically feasible to reverse lanes on limited access highways, the traffic flow would only increase by 50 percent.

Also, the study showed that the loss of (or greatly extended) circulation patterns would be lost for any needed law enforcement, fire, medical or tow-truck response personnel and vehicles. Reverse laning would prevent evacuating traffic to change course if the hurricane changes directions. Finally, law enforcement manpower requirements are inadequate to control and reroute traffic at normal exit and entrance points. Reverse laning would make immediate refueling-rest-plaza points impossible as well as creating safe exit points for evacuation traffic.

Many of the impracticalities are not evident if the evacuation route is a short distance of 50 miles or less. All studies related to evacuation routes and roadway capacity appear to show a direct correlation between evacuation distance and impracticality. The report determines that an evacuation route of more than 75 miles in length creates and compounds the impracticalities. In 1994, the DOT completed a draft plan to one-way, northbound, Florida's Turnpike. After review, FDOT determined the impracticabilities would not justify the one-waying of Florida's limited access highways.

As noted above under Recommendation #14, DEM has initiated a Protective Measures Plan that addresses not only coordinated evacuation needs, but also the in-place, in-county, and other local evacuee sheltering needs. As state, county, and city officials develop a more comprehensive local and regional sheltering program, the need for long distance evacuation routes will diminish and the focus will then be on the more practical short distance evacuation routes.

Additionally, the DEM Protective Measures Plan will lead to the development of complimentary supporting plans by state and local agencies that, implemented under the ESF structure of the CEMP, will negate many of the impractical elements noted above that are inherent in any local, regional, or longer distance evacuation plan.

For the above reasons, and in appreciation of continued evolutionary improvements in the evacuation process, especially the DEM Protective Measures Plan, the FDOT considers this recommendation met and closed.

Recommendation #17

Primary Agency: Florida Department of Transportation

Brief Description: Improvements of U.S. 1 between Key Largo and Florida City, including a new bridge at Jewfish Creek.

Point of Contact: Steve Decker, (850) 488-3546

Mike Ciscar, (305) 470-5201

Status:

The Florida Department of Transportation continues to expedite its construction plans to widen U.S.1 between Key Largo and Florida City and to reconstruct a new high level bridge on U.S. 1 over Jewfish Creek. In compliance with this recommendation, the DOT has vigorously pursued the design and permitting of construction plans for the U.S. 1 South Projects.

The DOT was successful in obtaining state permits for the projects, but three petitions of environmental concerns were filed against the permits. The DOT is involved in the Administrative Hearings regarding the permits and petitions. A final decision was reached in April 1997, allowing for the construction widening of U.S. 1 to commence.

Contracts for the southernmost section of U.S. 1, including replacement of the Jewfish Creek bridge, and the Dade/Monroe county line to Milepost 6 in Dade county section are anticipated to occur in December 1997.

Additionally, the contracts for the sections north of Jewfish Creek to the Dade/Monroe county line and from Milepost 6 in Dade county to Card Sound Road are scheduled for July 1999 and July 2000 respectively.

Recommendation #18

Primary Agencies: Florida Department of Transportation Division of Emergency Management

Brief Description: State highway system analysis to identify regional evacuation constraints.

Points of Contact: DOT: Steve Decker, (850) 488-3546 Gary Sokolow, (850) 488-9747

DEM: Michael McDonald

(850) 413-9953

Status:

The Florida Department of Transportation conducted an analysis of the State Highway System to determine which highways would cause a constraint to a regional

evacuation effort. The FDOT considered actions to reduce the effects of identified constraints. Since late 1993, the FDOT has been actively involved with DCA, DEM, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and various consultants, counties and metropolitan areas in reviewing and conducting analysis and studies of evacuation constraints and capacities of the state highway system.

The FDOT has used the results of these analysis and studies to: institute policies and actions regarding the improvement, construction, and use of roadway shoulders and bridges; retain or provide for normal traffic flow lanes through construction and heavy maintenance sites; develop a plan to upgrade or install 40 real-time traffic count sites in South Florida; and provide focus for a number of other strategies to support and improve evacuation efforts. The DOT and DEM have jointly participated in and reviewed the results of most of these studies and analyses.

The DOT supports the Protective Measures Plan initiated by DEM (See Recommendation #14), and the information gained from the constraints and capacities studies and analysis is used in state and local evacuation planning and coordination activities under the Protective Measures Plan.

Because of the above actions and activities, many of which will be on-going, the DOT considers this recommendation met and closed.

Recommendation #19

Primary Agency: Florida Department of Transportation

Brief Description: Programmable signs and major intersections curb stenciling.

Point of Contact: Steve Decker, (850) 488-3546

Bill Albaugh, (850) 488-8814

Status:

The Florida Department of Transportation has increased its supply of portable, programmable signs that can be used during mass evacuations and following disasters.

Since early 1994, FDOT has authorized requests from its eight districts statewide to replace older signs or acquire new programmable signs. These message and directional programmable signs are trailer or vehicle mounted and thus readily moveable.

As of April 1997, the DOT inventory of movable, programmable signs included 197 signs including:

- *43 generator-powered message board signs;

- *26 solar-powered message board signs, with back-up generators;

- *102 generator-powered directional arrow signs

- *26 solar-powered directional arrow signs with back-up generators

14 portable traffic signal heads, "traffic lights, red lights"

Supplementing the current inventory of 69 portable, programmable, multilingual message boards, 128 portable, multidirectional traffic arrow boards, and 14 portable traffic light signals, the DOT has local and statewide contracts for traffic control equipment (cones, barricades, reflectors, signs, etc.) that can provide additional portable signs during an emergency.

Furthermore, the on-going program to permanently install "overhead" programmable message boards in various high-traffic, metropolitan areas of Florida allows the DOT and local officials to use the signs for evacuation traffic needs.

Additionally, the 1996 Legislature added the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) to F.S. 252. Under the EMAC, the Florida DOT has access to portable and programmable signs in other states participating in the EMAC.

Recommendation #20

Primary Agency: Department of Insurance

Brief Description: Establish statewide "life over property" policy for marina evacuations.

Point of Contact: Matt Wester (850) 413-5258

Status:

House Bill 911 created Section 327.59, *Florida Statutes*, "Marina Evacuations," which states that by June 1, 1994, marinas shall not adopt, maintain, or enforce policies pertaining to evacuation of vessels that require vessels to be removed from marinas following the issuance of a hurricane watch or warning in order to ensure that protecting the lives and safety of vessel owners is placed before interests of protecting property.

The Departments of Insurance and Environmental Protection, the Boating Advisory Council, and the Departments of Revenue and Community Affairs met to discuss this issue. A subcommittee was formed to make recommendations regarding insurance programs and community provisions to discuss the effects on marina owners. This issue continues to be discussed at Boating Advisory Council Meetings. While marina operators agree with the principle of life over property, they still have concerns about the damage caused to their facilities due to vessels remaining in slips. The majority of the discussions have centered around the legal liability of boat owners.

Recommendation #21

Primary Agency: Florida Department of Transportation

Brief Description: Lock down of moveable bridges.

Point of Contact: DOT: Steve Decker, (850) 488-3546

Bill Albaugh, (850) 488-8814

DCA: Robert Byers, (850) 922-1675

Status:

The Florida Department of Transportation adopted a rule that establishes procedures for determining when drawbridges should be locked down. The rule was promulgated in coordination with state and county emergency management agencies and the U.S. Coast Guard. The rule is in place and was advertised to boat owners June 1, 1993

Since 1967, federal responsibility for bridges over navigable waters has been assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard under Subchapter J, Title 33, U.S. Code of Federal Regulations. For such bridges in Florida, the Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District, Miami, has this responsibility.

The federal regulations authorize moveable bridges, including drawbridges, to remain closed, locked-down, during natural disasters such as a hurricane. The federal regulations do not permit closure, lock-down in anticipation of a disaster without prior Coast Guard approval. Moveable bridges, including drawbridges, are authorized under federal regulations to remain closed when experiencing winds of 34 knots (39 mph) or more, if the bridge owner or operator has determined closure is required to prevent bridge damage.

Upon submission of required engineering analysis and other documentation, the U.S. Coast Guard will consider allowing bridge owners and operators to close and lock-down drawbridges with winds of less than 34 knots (39 mph) to prevent damages. If extra time is required by bridge owners to secure a large number of bridges prior to a storm's arrival, plans for early lock down of drawbridges prior to arrival of gale force winds will also be considered by the Coast Guard.

Temporary closures are approved by the Coast Guard on a case-by-case basis, if the operation and opening of the drawbridge could impede evacuation traffic. But, local disaster preparedness authorities and bridge owners are encouraged to submit proposed bridge opening and closure schedules and plans to the Coast Guard which they wish to implement when coastal evacuations are ordered. The Coast Guard will solicit comments on these proposals and, if accepted, will authorize implementation when the National Hurricane Center predicts storm passage is imminent.

F.S. 327.59 disallows marinas from adopting, maintaining, or enforcing vessel evacuation policies which would require vessels to be removed from marinas following the issuance of a hurricane watch or hurricane warning.

The DOT "Bridge Operations and Maintenance Manual" (DOT Procedure 850-010-031) reflects the above, and other, federal and state laws, regulations, rules, requirements, and procedures concerning moveable bridges and drawbridges.

In its attempt to comply with this recommendation, the DOT could neither identify sufficient latitude nor unaddressed needs within existing federal and state laws and regulations that would allow the development of an effective administrative rule for determining when drawbridges should be locked down. No administrative rule has been developed.

However, the DOT continues to work with the Miami and Mobile, Alabama, Coast Guard Districts to ensure personnel report to and work with the DOT and ESF-1, Transportation, on drawbridge and related matters in the SEOC whenever it is activated. Additionally, drawbridge operational matters will be one of the state and county coordination elements of the DEM Protective Measures Plan noted in Recommendation #14.

Furthermore, many Florida counties and metropolitan areas with DOT support and cooperation, have developed evacuation and drawbridge operational schedules and plans which have been submitted to and approved by the USCG 7th District in Miami.

Finally, educating, informing, and warning boat owners about hurricanes and bridge operations is a joint effort by the Coast Guard, the National Weather Service, the National Hurricane Center, and state, county and city agencies by and through all media.

Recommendation #22

Primary Agency: Division of Emergency Management

Brief Description: Adopt a shelter element which includes specific regional and inter-regional planning provisions. Amend Rule 9G-7, Florida Administrative Code (FAC), to ensure coordination of county plans with the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).

Point of Contact: Cicero Hartsfield (850) 413-9893

Eve Rainey (850) 413-9914

Status:

DEM continues to address sheltering issues and considers them a priority. DEM produced the "Model Hurricane Evacuation Shelter Solicitation" guidance manual and the Coordinated Hurricane Protective Action Plan to assist counties in developing a reliable shelter program.

Recommendation #23

Primary Agencies: Department of Education (DOE)

Board of Regents (BOR)

Brief Description: The Legislature should amend appropriate statutes relating to construction of public schools, community colleges and universities to include public shelter design criteria.

Points of Contact: DOE: Suzanne Marshall

(850) 487-1130

BOR: Robert Friedman

(850) 488-5251

DEM: Danny Kilcollins (850) 413-9859

Status:

This information covers requirements for public schools and community colleges. In 1993, House Bill 911 was passed to require changes to building codes for educational facilities. The Department of Community Affairs provided a grant to the Department of Education for development of a code for educational facilities. This research was then converted into a proposed rule that was placed on the Cabinet agenda in August 1994. The proposed rule was protested by the school boards because of the lack of additional funds to fulfill the shelter requirements. This came at a time when student population growth was increasing dramatically and funding was diminishing. The proposed rule was withdrawn from consideration. The DOE held hearings and revised the rule with partner agencies, educational boards, design professionals and citizens to reduce the costs. In 1995 the statute was revised. The redrafted rule was advertised in the Florida Administrative Weekly. No comments were received. The rule was promulgated as advertised, and is included in the current rewrite of the State Requirements for Educational Facilities currently being completed. Effective April 28, 1997, all new school construction must conform to the recently approved Public Shelter Criteria, unless exempted by the local emergency management office or the Department of Community Affairs.

Recommendation #24

Primary Agency: Department of Education

Brief Description: Survey existing schools, universities, community colleges and other state municipal and county-owned buildings and identify those that are suitable for

use as shelters. Retrofit, as necessary, selected facilities that are adequate to fulfill the needs of a public shelter.

Points of Contact: DOE: Suzanne Marshall

(850) 488-1130

BOR: Ken Ogletree

(850) 488-5251

DEM: Danny Kilcollins (850) 413-9859

Status:

The Department of Education did not have adequate staff available to conduct a survey, and was unable to provide the work without requesting a special appropriation for funds to hire private engineering firms. DCA/DEM initiated this work and included a member of our educational facilities staff, Mr. Paul Kelley, Architect.

The DCA has awarded competitive grants to various school districts for specific schools to provide shutters for windows and other retrofit items as identified in an earlier survey. Each year, DCA also submits the "Shelter Retrofit Report ", which identifies those educational facilities that could be retrofitted. Most of the retrofits have not occurred for a lack of funding. DCA/DEM plans to merge the 1997 Shelter Retrofit Report and other strategy reports that are relevant to shelter deficit reduction into a single program, annual report document entitled "Statewide Shelter Deficit Reduction."

Recommendation #25

Primary Agency: Department of Management Services

Brief Description: Evaluate the feasibility and fiscal implication of constructing state buildings to meet public shelter standards.

Point of Contact: Sheree Keeler (850) 414-7669

Status:

The Department of Management Services was unable to study this issue due to a lack of resources. DCA will propose legislation in 1998 to allow state office buildings to serve as emergency shelters.

Recommendation #26

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Examine the appropriateness of amending Chapter 723, Florida Statutes, to require mobile home parks to incorporate on-site shelters.

Point of Contact: Tom Beck (850) 488-4925

Status:

Existing provisions for providing on-site shelter for future mobile home parks meeting the Chapter 380 definition of a "Development Regional Impact (DRI)" include the following:

"Any mobile home park passing the DRI threshold and is located outside of a Category I, II or III hurricane evacuation zone must construct a suitable facility to serve as an 'on-site shelter.' This is an attempt to keep these residents from seeking public shelter space in other locations." This provision of law fulfills this recommendation.

Recommendation #27

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Advocate the development and adoption of model building codes for new residential structures. Specifically, address requirements for shutters, improved roof connections and creation of safe shelter space within living areas.

Point of Contact: Richard W. Dixon, (850) 487-1824

Status:

Certification of Building Inspectors:

Effective January 1, 1994, all building inspectors, code administrators and building plans examiners were required to be certified by Florida Building Code Administrators and Inspectors Board (BCAIB), Department of Business and Professional Regulation. Initial certifications were based on voluntary certifications under the Florida Board of Building Codes and Standards, the Building Officials Association of Florida, and the Southern Building Code Congress International programs. Subsequent, certifications require compliance with testing and experience criteria established by the BCAIB. Maintenance of certification requires 14 contact hours of continuing education biennially.

Adoption of Wind Load Standards:

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Standard 7 establishes the standard for engineering design of buildings to meet the loads resulting from wind. The 1988 edition of this standard has currently been adopted by both Dade and Broward counties into the South Florida Building Code, by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development into the Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards and by the Southern Building Code Congress International (SBCCI) into the Standard

Building Code's (SBC) requirements for buildings over 60 feet in height. Additionally, the Council of American Building Officials One and Two Family Dwelling Code requires engineering for dwellings built in regions whose design wind speed exceeds 100 mph according to the ASCE Standard 7-1988 maps. The Standard Building Code provides an alternative wind design procedure for buildings less than 60 feet in height which reduces design wind pressures. The 1995 edition of the ASCE Standard 7 also recognizes reductions in design pressures for low-rise buildings; however, the pressure reductions allowed by the two procedures are not yet the same.

The ASCE Standard 7 and the SBC (now section 1606) wind loads design procedures are engineering design methods which require background and experience in engineering analysis. Design of low-rise residential structures has been facilitated through the development of several prescriptive or specification design methods. The SBCCI developed standard SSTD 10 as a prescriptive path to compliance with the low rise building requirements of section 1606 (old 1205). The Florida Board of Building Codes and Standards authorized the use of the 1993 edition of this standard for complying with the SBC wind requirements for one and two family residential buildings in June of 1993. The 1996 edition of this standard is currently being reviewed for adoption by the Board. The Florida Legislature specifically authorized contractors use of alternative design methods in 1995 upon condition that they have demonstrated proficiency to their licensing board in the use of the method and the method has been approved by the Board of Building Codes and Standards. In addition to the SSTD 10, the Board has approved the Florida Wood Products Promotion Council's Guide to Wood Construction in High Wind Areas and is currently reviewing the American Forest and Paper Association's Wood Frame Construction Manual, High Wind Edition. The Board has also recognized a computer program developed by EDA Software which implements the SBC section 1606 low rise buildings engineering design procedure and the Florida Concrete and Products Association has requested that the Board review a computer program it is developing for recognition as an acceptable design aid as well.

Protection of the Weather Envelope:

Two separate procedures are currently in effect for testing the impact resistance glazing and glazing protection products. Dade County has established a testing protocol and requires products sold to comply with the South Florida Building Code requirements for protection of the weather envelope to be tested. The SBCCI has also developed a testing standard SSTD 12 for rating the impact resistance of glazing and glazing protection products. The SBC does not require glazed opening or weather envelope protection at this time. The South Florida Building Code has requirements for roofing systems and products that are currently being tested and certified for compliance. The Standard Building Code has requirements for wind resistance of roof tiles, but it does not directly address other roofing systems. It also does not address impact resistance of roofing systems.

The concept of providing a hardened shelter space within dwellings has not been pursued by the building codes organizations. While protection of individuals is the critical concern, the trend has been toward providing protection by improving the total building's resistance to wind. That approach will providing safety and property protection.

Insurance Incentives:

The insurance industry works closely with the Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS), formerly known as the Institute for Property Loss Reduction (IPLR) to develop programs that will provide incentives for improving the performance of buildings in natural disasters. The IBHS developed a system for rating the building code enforcement of communities and has turned that program over to the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) for administration. In 1996-97, Florida was in the first group of states to be evaluated. This program is projected to have a similar impact on building code enforcement as the community fire services rating program has had on fire protection services provided by communities. This community rating approach is intended to be integrated into the insurance premium setting procedures of participating insurance companies.

The IBHS is also developing programs for promoting the retrofit of existing buildings and for general education of the public on self protection in hurricanes. There are no proposals at this time for credits on insurance premiums based on individual house performance.

Recommendation #28

Primary Agency: Agency for Health Care Administration

Brief Description: Establish standards that will minimize the need for evacuation of facilities to ensure that all new health or residential care facilities are structurally capable of serving as shelters. Existing facilities should be retrofitted to meet new

standards.

Points of Contact: Marshall E. Kelley, Director

ACHA, Division of Quality Assurance

(850) 487-2527

Status:

Public Law 93-211 authorized the Agency to establish standards for health and residential facilities. The rules governing new construction requirements have been sent for review to the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC). Rules affecting the retrofitting of existing structures are being studied for economic impact. They are expected to be finalized for JAPC review in 1997.

Recommendation #29

Primary Agency: American Red Cross (ARC)

Brief Description: Develop a computerized network system for registering shelter occupants

that can be readily accessed.

Point of Contact: Irene Cabral (813) 348-4865

Status:

The American Red Cross has reviewed numerous methods to track sheltered populations including the automation of record keeping at each shelter. Even though

the computer software and hardware exists, the practicality of procuring sufficient equipment for the hundreds of facilities during a major disaster is unrealistic for the foreseeable future.

Improved training programs, publications and workshops address the critical aspect of accurate registration of shelter occupants. The importance of communications between shelters, disaster operations centers, the hurricane watch and county/state emergency management agencies is paramount. During FY-97, the ARC State Disaster lead unit will strongly encourage the use of automated equipment in those facilities where agreements and computer equipment are available to support this concept. Otherwise, data transfer will continue to be accomplished by fax, telephone, radio or courier.

Recommendation #30

Primary Agency: The 1993 Legislature

Brief Description: Amend Chapter 252, Florida Statutes (F.S.), to better define "people with special needs."

Point of Contact: Cicero Hartsfield (850) 413-9893

Status:

Special Needs issues are being further reviewed by the Agency for Health Care Administration, Department of Elder Affairs, Department of Health, Department of Children and Family Services, DCA/DEM and Florida Emergency Preparedness Association representatives to improve related issues (staffing, shelters, management and operations).

House Bill 911 amended 252.355, F.S., to Chapter 252.381 (1), which enables the registry of disabled persons. People with special needs are defined as persons who would need assistance during evacuation and sheltering because of physical or mental handicaps. The "Special Needs Task Force," established as a result of the development of Emergency Support Function #6 (Mass Care), created a more definitive definition of the special needs population. This will become the statewide planning guide for state and local emergency management personnel. The task force recommended the Department of Health establish an advisory task force to further address this issue.

Recommendation #31

Primary Agency: Agency for Health Care Administration

Brief Description: Amend appropriate statutes to define "Residential Care Facilities" that are required to maintain evacuation and shelter plans.

Point of Contact: Marshall E. Kelley, Director

ACHA, Division of Health Quality

Assurance (850) 487-2527

Status:

Public Law 93-211 amended s. 393.067(8), F.S. to define "Resident Care Facilities".

Recommendation #32

Primary Agency: Agency for Health Care Administration

Brief Description: The Legislature should amend appropriate statutes and the Agency should amend Rule 59A-4, FAC, to include minimum criteria for development and maintenance of disaster plans for residential care facilities and for joint state-county review and approval of plans.

Point of Contact: Marshall E. Kelley, Director

ACHA, Division of Health Quality Assurance (850) 487-2527

Status:

Public Law 93-211 amended the following statutes to require review and approval of emergency management plans:

s. 393.067, F.S. - Residential Care Facilities,

s. 395.1005, F.S. - Hospitals,

s. 400.23, F.S. - Nursing Homes and related facilities,

s. 400.441, F.S. - Assisted Living Facilities formerly called adult congregate living facilities.

The appropriate chapters of the Florida Administrative Code have been revised to reflect these amendments. As of April 1997, the ACHA Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled had yet to promulgate a rule covering the development of an emergency plan.

Recommendation #33

Primary Agency: Agency for Health Care Administration

Brief Description: Amend Rule 59A-4.126(2)(g), FAC, to clarify that nursing homes may not use public shelters as alternative host facilities.

Point of Contact: Steven Bradley, (850) 922-9138

Status:

Compliance with the requirements of HB 911 to require special planning to ensure that each nursing home has a disaster plan to include provisions for sheltering residents has commenced. The AHCA has revised Rule 59A-4, F.A.C.

Recommendation #34

Primary Agency: Agency for Health Care Administration

Brief Description: Require appropriate agencies and community-based service providers,

including home health care providers to collect registration information

on clients with "special needs."

Point of Contact: Marshall E. Kelley, Director

AHCA, Division of Health Quality Assurance (850) 487-2527

Status:

Public Law 93-211, Section 15, amended s. 252.355, F.S. to require agencies and community-based service providers to collect registration information during intake and establish programs to increase awareness of the process as well as educate their clients on disaster safety procedures applicable to people with special needs.

Recommendation #35

Primary Agency: The 1993 Legislature

Brief Description: Amend Section 252.355, Florida Statutes (F.S.), to require clients of state and federally funded programs to register as people with special needs.

Points of Contact: Marshall E. Kelley, Director

AHCA, Division of Health Quality Assurance (850) 487-2527

Status:

Public Law 93-211 amended s. 252.355, F.S. to require people with special needs who are clients of state or federally funded service programs to register if they would need assistance in evacuating or when they are housed in shelters.

Recommendation #36

Primary Agency: Agency for Health Care Administration

Brief Description: The Legislature should amend appropriate statutes to authorize the

medical program to reimburse hospitals for skilled nursing beds used for other than acute care because of a disaster declaration.

Point of Contact: Marshall E. Kelley, Director

AHCA, Division of Health Quality Assurance (850) 487-2527

Status:

Public Law 93-211 amended s. 409.908, F.S. to provide Medicaid reimbursement to hospitals under these circumstances. The Agency's policy has been revised to reflect these changes.

Recommendation #37

Primary Agency: Department of Management Services

Brief Description: Establish Emergency Support Function (ESF) for communications at the

State Emergency Operations Center.

Point of Contact: Sheree Keeler (850) 414-7669

Status:

ESF #2 has been established for communications as part of the State Emergency Response Team. The Division of Communications has developed a communications plan that has been incorporated into the standard operating procedures of ESF #2. DMS/DivCom is supported by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Civil Air Patrol, the Department of Community Affairs, the Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of Military Affairs, the Public Service Commission and amateur radio services.

Recommendation #38

Primary Agency: Department of Management Services

Brief Description: Coordinate the statewide Emergency Communications Coordination Plan.

Point of Contact: Sheree Keeler (850) 414-7669

Status:

This recommendation has been accomplished and is a part of the Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. It is contained in Emergency Support Function #2.

Recommendation #39

Primary Agency: Department of Management Services

Brief Description: Revise state emergency plans and procedures to provide for pre-deployment and staging of resources to support communications.

Point of Contact: Sheree Keeler (850) 414-7669

Status:

This recommendation has been accomplished through the development of Emergency Support Function #2 (Communications). The DMS, Division of Communications, has exercised this part of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. The areas of deficiencies have been identified and are being corrected.

Recommendation #40

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: The National Warning System (NAWAS) should be used as a primary means of communication with 24-hour warning points outside the affected area.

Point of Contact: Craig Fugate (850) 413-9837

Status:

Effective November 1, 1995, the Federal Emergency Management Agency drastically reduced the number of NAWAS connections in the nation due to budget constraints. As of that date, all of the County drops were disconnected by FEMA and in anticipation of this action, Florida developed and implemented a comprehensive and sophisticated satellite system that far exceeds the NAWAS system in all aspects. As of April 1997, the Satellite system is present in all County Warning Points and Emergency Management Agencies, in all Weather Service Offices, in all Primary Emergency Alert System (EAS) control stations, as well as in several miscellaneous agencies dealing with county and state emergency management functions, such as several Water Management Districts, the Florida National Guard Headquarters, the Department of Transportation and others. The satellite system's voice and data system is superior to the NAWAS system in reliability, flexibility, quality, cost and capabilities.

Recommendation #41

Primary Agency: Department of Management Services

Brief Description: Establish open purchase orders and a Memorandum of Understanding with commercial telecommunication companies.

Point of Contact: Glenn Mayne (850) 488-3595

Status:

The Division of Communication has established open purchase orders and Memorandums of Understanding with major commercial telecommunications companies to ensure temporary communications equipment within disaster area(s) during post-disaster operations. Also, DCA created the Resource and Financial Management Plan that clearly identifies the processes for documenting costs incurred during disasters and methods for recouping these funds in accordance with appropriate policies, regulations and standards.

Recommendation #42

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Coordinate the use of mobile emergency communication vans owned by cities and counties to supplement state communications resources.

Points of Contact: Sheree Keeler (850) 414-7669

DEM: Craig Fugate (850) 413-9837

Status:

An inventory of assets available in mobile communications vans throughout the State is being developed and each county or agency having or building a mobile communications function is coordinating frequency assignments with DEM, DMS/Division of Communications and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. DCA awarded FDLE a grant to purchase a communications and command trailer that includes radio equipment capable of communicating with state and county agencies. In addition, DCA has two portable satellite dishes ready for deployment to disaster areas to ensure communications continuity.

Recommendation #43

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: The Department of Management Services and DCA should coordinate to

have the 800 megahertz (MHZ) radio communication system expanded. Upgrade the Mobile Emergency Communications Centers (MECCs) with 800 MHZ transceivers.

Point of Contact: John Fleming (850) 413-9888

Status:

The Division of Emergency Management has been licensed to operate the 800 MHZ for the MECCs. As of 1997, two 800 MHZ operators with a trailer mounted antenna have been purchased and fully operational. Also, fifty 800 MHZ hand-held radios have been acquired for use in the field during response and recovery activities.

Recommendation #44

Primary Agency: Department of Management Services

Brief Description: The Cellular Telephone Industry has been urged to accelerate technological improvements to prioritize cellular calls and reserve cellular channels for emergency use.

Point of Contact: Glenn Mayne (850) 488-3595

Status:

The Department of Management Services has noted the problems that were experienced in post-Andrew operations with the cellular telephone industry. Discussions are being held with Cellular One, BellSouth Mobility and others to resolve these problems. This problem is being addressed at the Federal level by the FCC and NCS (National Communications Service). Recommendations have been provided to the FCC via WT Docket 96-86, and our comments provided to NCS.

Recommendation #45

Primary Agency: Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)

Brief Description: Provide the appropriate funds to purchase two additional vehicles:

Florida Security Control Center vehicle and the Emergency Communications and Command Center vehicle.

Point of Contact: Ken Morris (850) 488-2738

Status:

DEM awarded FDLE a grant in 1995, under the Emergency Management Preparedness Assistance Competitive Grant program, Chapter 9G-18, FAC, to purchase a vehicle that would serve as the State's Mobile Command and Communications Center.

The 56-foot Communications/Command Post was delivered in the Spring of 1996. Other state law enforcement agencies contributed to the trailer's radio inventory to ensure its compatibility with state and local agencies.

The Command Post has a fiber optic telephone hub, an expandable telephone system, four radio dispatch stations, a high-powered radio base station and repeaters, a 70-foot, telescoping antenna. This unified law enforcement mobile command and control

center is housed at FDLE headquarters in Tallahassee.

Recommendation #46

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Revise county emergency plans to identify amateur radio coordinators

and use of amateur radio operators at shelters and other response sites.

Point of Contact: John Fleming (850) 413-9888

Status:

Most counties are currently using the amateur radio systems as a backup or secondary means of communications between the Emergency Operations Center and shelters. The Communication Annex of the current plans require this information to be listed. The Division of Emergency Management encourages the use of the amateur radio system and has full-time staff that are qualified amateur radio operators with one staff person being assigned as the State Coordinator for amateur radio systems in Florida. The State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan will reflect more definitive uses of the amateur radio systems.

A significant number of counties have in place the amateur radio organizations (ARES and RACES). The DCA State Radio Communications Coordinator tests this system weekly. DCA/DEM conducts regular training for the amateur radio operators at the State Emergency Operations Center.

Recommendation #47

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), counties, voluntary organizations, and the media to develop procedures for releases of emergency information.

Point of Contact: Molly Payne or Gailee Cardwell,

(850) 922-1732

Status:

When the State Emergency Operations Center is activated, public information is routinely transmitted via rapid facsimile to the media, FEMA, counties, the National Weather Service (NWS) and the State Emergency Response Team's state agency emergency coordinators. DCA's news releases also contain information involving volunteers and donations to help the voluntary organizations coordinate their efforts. The statewide coordinated hurricane evacuation plan includes a method of disseminating consistent public information to counties and statewide media that includes initial releases when a storm may potentially impact Florida. News releases also are sent when there is a significant change in the status or direction of a particular threatening or nearby storm system. This information is available on the DCA Internet home page: www.state.fl.us/comaff. As part of DCA's efforts to provide consistent information during and after disasters, ESF 14 (Public Information) coordinates with FEMA to produce information available on the "Recovery Channel" -- a nationwide satellite uplink accessible by broadcasters. Also, agreements are in place with "The Weather Channel" to air emergency information to Floridians via cable television. Public information continues into the recovery phase after a disaster and is coordinated jointly with FEMA.

Recommendation #48

Primary Agency: County Emergency Management Agencies

Brief Description: Counties should identify staging and information centers in their post-

disaster response and recovery plans.

Points of Contact: Craig Fugate (850) 413-9837

County Emergency Management Offices

Status:

All counties have been required to identify staging areas for equipment and supplies, as well as other sites that can be used as information centers, Disaster Assistance Centers and Disaster Field Offices. This was required in the Emergency Management Assistance contracts with the counties.

As a condition of receiving base grant funding from the Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Trust Fund, counties will be required to keep this information current for their specific area. DCA/DEM maintains this information on a computer database.

Recommendation #49

Primary Agency: Local News Media

Brief Description: Local media should provide their plans for release of emergency information to the public to applicable emergency management agencies.

Point of Contact: Molly Payne (850) 922-1732

Status:

The Florida Association of Broadcasters, in conjunction with the Department of Community Affairs' Communications staff, is developing measures to ensure that local media will provide, and county emergency management agencies will be familiar with, media procedures. The Communications staff coordinates regularly with other state office public information officers on procedures with statewide media during emergencies. Also, ESF 14 -- Public Information, has developed guidance to assist the media during daily and emergency events.

Recommendation #50

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Coordinate the development of a system for disseminating post-disaster information and instructions, using the non-electronic media and methods.

Point of Contact: Molly Payne (850) 922-1732

Status:

DCA is conducting an analysis of non-electronic methods available for disseminating information to the public on post-disaster operations. Primarily, a Community Outreach Team has been formed. This team will personally carry recovery information to shelter and feeding sites, as well as conduct public meetings. This is explained in

the Recovery procedures.

Recommendation #51

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: The state should use three categories to clarify disasters: Minor, Major or Catastrophic.

Point of Contact: Cicero Hartsfield (850) 413-9893

Status:

Provisions have been included in the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) to plan for catastrophic events, with the capability to scale back to a major or minor event when responding to and recovering from disasters. Rapid Impact Assessment Teams (RIAT) will be deployed to assess the immediate needs of a disaster area. The RIATs are assembled by the Florida Department of Military Affairs and include representatives from nearly all Emergency Support Functions.

The CEMP identifies four levels of activation for the Emergency Operations Center depending on the severity of the event. In summary, the first level is a monitoring level that may require state agency notification; level two brings some initial state agencies to the EOC; level three brings all state agencies to the EOC; level four brings federal representation and the facility is staffed for 24-hour a day operations.

Recommendation #52

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Adopt a post-disaster response and recovery element as part of the Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) that is generally aligned with the strategy used by the federal government. The Legislature should amend Chapter 252, F.S., to add these requirements.

Points of Contact: Response: Craig Fugate (850) 413-9837

Recovery: Shirley Collins (850) 413-9950

Status:

The Florida 1993 Legislature, through House Bill 911, mandated that this recommendation be carried forth with the amendment to Chapter 252, Florida Statutes.

The State CEMP was revised in 1996. Florida's CEMP parallels the organizations set forth in the Federal Response Plan. The CEMP identifies 17 separate Emergency Support Functions (ESFs). Florida's first 12 ESFs mirror FEMA's Federal Response Plan. The Florida ESFs address the following areas:

ESF # and Lead Agency

1. Transportation

Department of Transportation

2. Communications

Department of Management Services

3. Public Works/Engineering

Department of Transportation

4. Firefighting

Department of Insurance

5. Information and Planning

Department of Community Affairs

6. Mass Care

American Red Cross

7. Resource Support

Department of Management Services

8. Health and Medical

Department of Health

9. Urban Search and Rescue

Department of Insurance

10. Environmental Protection

Department of Environmental Protection

11. Food and Water

Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services

12. Energy

Public Service Commission and DCA

13. Military Support

Department of Military Affairs

14. Public Information

Department of Community Affairs

15. Volunteers and Donations

Florida Commission of Community Volunteers

16. Law Enforcement

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

17. Animal Protection

Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

The CEMP includes a section dedicated to post-response actions. When the State EOC activates in response to an emergency, a recovery element is activated as well. This group will initiate activities necessary to ensure a smooth transition by evaluating the situation, identifying recovery center sites and managers, assembling and deploying damage assessment teams, and identifying any hazard mitigation issues. Once the President has issued a disaster declaration, local recovery centers will be established to provide information to disaster victims. Post-disaster hazard mitigation activities at the DFO requires a coordinated effort among the various levels of governments. A State Hazard Mitigation Officer will be responsible for implementing all post-disaster mitigation activities. The SHMO also will designate staff to support mitigation outreach at the Recovery Centers. Reconstruction Centers will provide technical assistance on mitigation to affected homeowners. Long-term redevelopment programs that support pre-disaster, post-disaster, and mitigation activities and include a residential construction mitigation program and a resource identification strategy. These programs are designed to address local unmet needs identified after a disaster.

Recommendation #53

Primary Agency: The 1993 Legislature

Brief Description: Amend Chapter 252, F.S., and other statutes to provide each agency with lead responsibility for an Emergency Support Function (ESF) with authority to promulgate rules to support their responsibility.

Point of Contact: Craig Fugate (850) 413-9837

Status:

House Bill 911 amended Chapter 252.35, F.S. to 252.361 (2)(a)8, which gives the Department of Community Affairs the authority to assign lead and support responsibilities to state agencies for ESFs. In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 120, F.S., DCA has the authority to create, implement, administer, promulgate, amend and rescind rules, programs and plans as needed to carry out the provisions of 252.31-252.90, F.S.

Recommendation #54

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Amend Rule 9G-7, Florida Administrative Code (FAC), to establish minimum criteria for county and city post-disaster response and recovery elements.

Point of Contact: Eve Rainey (850) 413-9914

Status:

Rule 9G-7 was revised to establish minimum criteria for county and city post-disaster response and recovery. The rule was effective May 1995. County emergency plans are regularly reviewed by DCA to ensure this criteria is met, and recommendations are made for improvement.

Recommendation #55

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Amend the Florida Statutes to require cities to coordinate requests for state and federal assistance through their county.

Point of Contact: Frank Koutnik (850) 413-9937

Status:

This requirement was accomplished through the passage of House Bill 911. The Division of Emergency Management has instituted public officials conferences for each of the 67 counties to include all municipalities to explain this new requirement. Over 145 POCs have been conducted through July 1997.

The Division, in conjunction with the Florida Association of Broadcasters, has developed a video entitled "Disaster Preparedness Response and Recovery An Overview." The video is being distributed to municipal and county governments and describes the process of requesting state and federal assistance to include Public Assistance and Individual Assistance. It also describes the need to coordinate all local requests through the county emergency management office. Also, a video explaining how the State EOC operates was completed in May 1997.

Recommendation #56

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: The 1993 Legislature should appropriate sufficient funds to DCA to accelerate the updating of regional evacuation studies, regional shelter studies, storm surge atlases and regional hurricane loss studies.

Point of Contact: Mike McDonald (850) 413-9953

Status:

The 1993 Legislature created the Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Trust Fund to accelerate the completion of this task. DCA has aggressively sought and received additional funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Army Corps of Engineers to further enhance these projects. Also, the National Emergency Management Association's Hurricane Program Subcommittee is working with the federal partners to establish a national hurricane study update strategy. This will benefit many states, including Florida. This group met several times at the 1997 National Hurricane Conference in Houston, Texas, to finalize this process.

Recommendation #57

Primary Agency: All State and Regional Agencies

Brief Description: Designate an Emergency Coordinating Officer (ECO) and an alternate.

Point of Contact: Craig Fugate (850) 413-9837

Each agency's ECO

Status:

Each state and regional agency has responded in writing by naming their respective ECO and a minimum of one alternate. This roster is maintained on a continuous basis by the Division of Emergency Management, Bureau of Preparedness and Response. Each ECO receives annual training on the CEMP and current procedures. The Division hosts an annual exercise to give new state agency ECOs the opportunity to become familiar with the State Emergency Operations Center.

Recommendation #58

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs (DCA)

Brief Description: Provide funding to all counties to ensure that each has a dedicated emergency preparedness officer.

Point of Contact: Suzanne Adams, (850) 413-9934

Status:

The Department has in place Administrative Rule Chapter 9G-19, F.A.C., which guides the distribution of base grants/competitive grants to local jurisdictions. The base grant funds are provided annually to each county emergency management office in the state. Beginning with fiscal year 1993-94, \$4.8 million has been allocated to the counties during each of the first three years of the program; the fourth year of this program funding, FY 1996-97, provided \$6.5 million to the counties and it is expected that the FY 1997-98 allocation to the counties will approach \$7 million. Each of the 67 counties now has a full-time emergency management director.

Recommendation #59

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Develop and implement two concurrent training programs to include post-disaster response and recovery teams, and local government personnel on federal and state post-disaster response and recovery procedures.

Point of Contact: Joe Cawthon (850) 413-9877

Status:

DEM continues to address the training needs of state and local personnel charged with pre- and post disaster responsibilities. In addition to emergency management courses offered to local jurisdictions based on needs surveys, DEM conducts a Statewide Hurricane Exercise each year and encourages all counties to participate in the scenario. In 1996, The Hurricane "Zelda" exercise included a separate recovery component which allowed simulated opening of a Disaster Field Office. In 1997, the Division hosted the "Hurricane Thor" exercise. "Thor" provided State Emergency Operations Center personnel to test updated response systems and procedures since moving into the Hurley Rudd building in July 1996.

All State Emergency Response Team (SERT) personnel receive annual training prior to hurricane season. Additionally, several specific requests for training by Emergency Support Functions were conducted using the Tabletop Exercise as methodology. Public Officials Conferences are conducted to educate local government officials on their responsibilities during emergencies have been held in every county in the state and the cycle of conducting them again is well under way. Job descriptions and procedures for DEM staff during activations have been created and are part of the SERT Reference Manual used by staff during disaster emergencies.

Recommendation #60

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs (DCA)

Brief Description: Establish a team to be responsible for pre-planning and implementing post-disaster response and recovery operations prior to disaster impacts.

Point of Contact: Shirley Collins (850) 413-9950

Status:

The recovery team has been identified, assembled and exercised several times. The Public Assistance and the Individual Assistance programs have been staffed and program training has begun with the Damage Assessment Teams and Disaster Application Center managers. The State Hazard Mitigation Officer has organized the State Hazard Mitigation Team.

Public and Individual Assistance training have been instituted for local governments and is being conducted on a regular basis.

Recommendation #61

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Assist local jurisdictions in developing urban search and rescue teams. Create a statewide urban search and rescue (USAR) program.

Point of Contact: Craig Fugate (850) 413-9837

Status:

Studies are being conducted to determine what resources and personnel are available, the availability of training and the funding requirements. There are currently 27 Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams in the United States with two being in Dade County. One of these teams is funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the other was funded from the Hurricane Andrew Recovery and Relief Trust Fund. Initial studies indicate that the cost of forming, training and maintaining these teams would be impossible without a specified funding source. Florida's USAR teams have responded to other states, including Oklahoma (bombing) and Georgia (Olympics). The State of New York's USAR Team responded to Florida following Hurricane Opal. DCA, through the Post-Disaster Response and Recovery Element of the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, has established Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9 (Urban Search and Rescue) to coordinate response from the Emergency Operations Center. ESF #9 would be the primary contact with the corresponding Federal ESF to assure rapid response of the teams when needed.

Recommendation #62

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Establish a Disaster Field Office (DFO) soon after a disaster event. Co-locate federal/state/local key decision makers at the DFO.

Point of Contact: Craig Fugate (850) 413-9837

Status:

In order to maintain a continuity of response and recovery operations, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) located in Tallahassee will serve as the central clearinghouse of all requests from counties for state assistance during the recovery

period. However, response personnel would be deployed to the DFO to assist in facilitating response requests. It is anticipated that these requests would be forwarded to the State EOC. The Division has formed a partnership with the Associated General Contractors of Florida to assist in the post-recovery phase.

Also, a forward SEOC may be established following a catastrophic disaster, but, like the DFO liaisons, would serve as a liaison to the fully operational State EOC in Tallahassee.

Recommendation #63

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Establish a post-disaster response and recovery coordination task force.

Point of Contact: Shirley Collins (850) 413-9950

Status:

The Division's current method of operations allows for response liaisons to work closely with DFO operations following a catastrophic disaster. Because the response and recovery phases cross over, it is important for the two groups to coordinate response actions. Also, the Federal Advance Emergency Response Team would co-locate with the State Emergency Response Team in the SEOC to ensure response coordination continues.

A state recovery team also would co-locate in the State EOC to ensure recovery issues are properly addressed.

Recommendation #64

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs (DCA)

Brief Description: Enter into interstate compacts to share resource and coordinate responses to disasters.

Point of Contact: Craig Fugate (850) 413-9837

Status:

The State of Florida entered into a mutual-aid compact with the southern states represented through the Southern Governor's Association in order to share resources and coordinate responses to major or catastrophic disasters. This includes the interstate sharing of National Guard resources. The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) now includes all states and territories to allow for the interstate use of state resources. As of 1997, 16 state legislatures have ratified the EMAC and 10 states have introduced legislation for consideration.

The State of Florida and the State of North Carolina have entered into an agreement that allows for the use of aircraft that will transport people with special needs from Monroe County to a safer location.

Recommendation #65

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Evaluate executive orders by the Governor after Hurricane Andrew.

Point of Contact: Robert Byerts (850) 488-0410

Status:

The DCA, Office of General Counsel, General Government Section, has reviewed all executive orders issued as a result of Hurricane Andrew, and in addition, a number of other executive orders declaring state of emergencies over the past 10 years. As a result of this review, draft executive orders containing provisions to accomplish actions to address the needs associated with major and catastrophic disasters have been pre-prepared. The draft executive orders are available in hard copy and on disk, as well as an instruction booklet and other related paperwork. A copy of the disk or draft executive orders has been supplied to the Executive Office of the Governor for review.

Recommendation #66

Primary Agency: Department of Management Services

Brief Description: Obtain special procurement provisions for state agencies during post-disaster response and recovery operations.

Point of Contact: Sheree Keeler (850) 414-7669

Status:

This recommendation is being addressed in Emergency Support Function (ESF) #7 of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Procedures to block hotel rooms through pre-agreements, etc., are being investigated to ensure adequate lodging. Also, procedures to lease rental cars are being developed.

All DCA personnel have been issued American Express credit cards that will allow for easier transactions during long periods of deployment.

Recommendation #67

Primary Agency: The 1993 Legislature

Brief Description: Amend Chapter 252, Florida Statutes (F.S.) to permit counties to extend a local emergency declaration for up to seven days.

Point of Contact: Robert Byerts (850) 488-0410

Status:

House Bill (HB) 911 amended Chapter 252.38, F.S., to allow a political subdivision to declare a local state of emergency for up to seven days, and may be extended as necessary in seven-day increments.

Recommendation #68

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Amend Chapter 252, F.S., to provide incentives to local governments that enter into statewide mutual-aid agreements.

Point of Contact: Robert Byerts (850) 488-0410

Status:

Section 252.373 (3), F.S., directs the Department of Community Affairs to "allocate funds from the Emergency Management, Preparedness, and Assistance Trust Fund to local emergency management agencies and programs pursuant to criteria specified in rule" including criteria providing "preferential funding to provide incentives to counties and municipalities to participate in mutual aid agreements."

Rule 9G-19.006, F.A.C., "Reallocation of Base Grant Funds" provides that any funds available but not allocated for those base grants to counties shall be identified by the Division prior to January 1 of each year for reallocation to County Emergency Management Agencies. The reallocation shall provide 25 percent of those funds identified to be divided equally among counties participating in the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement as of January 1 of each year. Rule 9G-19.007, F.A.C., "Competitive Awards Eligibility", makes competitive grant funding available to municipalities that have executed the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement.

Recommendation #69

Primary Agency: The 1993 Legislature

Brief Description: Amend Chapter 23, Part 1, F.S., to:

1. Give the Director of the Florida Mutual Aid Plan Authority to command all law enforcement in times of disaster;
2. Allow the requirement that requested operational assistance agreements be in writing be waived for up to 90 days following the declaration of a disaster;
3. Provide that the Director of Florida Mutual Aid Plan shall serve as liaison and guide the requests from local law enforcement for law enforcement services from the Florida National Guard.

Point of Contact: Ken Morris (850) 488-2738

Status:

As amended by the Florida Legislature, 1993, all three recommendations were added to Chapter 23, Part 1, F.S.

Recommendation #70

Primary Agency: Department of Law Enforcement

(FDLE)

Brief Description: Evaluate the need for stricter limits on access to heavily impacted disaster areas.

Point of Contact: Ken Morris (850) 488-2738

Status:

This recommendation has been taken into consideration and continues to be addressed individually with impacted Police Chiefs and Sheriffs to ensure necessary security. Access to disaster areas is decided on the local level and FDLE -- as lead agency for ESF 16, Law Enforcement and Security. ESF 16 coordinates the activities of state law enforcement including the Florida National Guard in support of local law enforcement in the communities affected by a disaster. Following Hurricane Opal in 1995, FDLE and DCA, Division of Emergency Management, created a standardized Security Pass System for access into disaster areas. However, access will continue to be coordinated with local agencies while keeping the public's safety a priority.

When coordinating the re-entry plan, the following issues must be considered: the size and population of the impacted area; the needs of relief workers and citizens to move in and out of the area; and the geographical boundaries which determine law enforcement's ability to control access in and out of the area.

Recommendation #71

Primary Agency: Department of Transportation

Brief Description: Reservation of one traffic lane on limited access highways for use by emergency responders.

Point of Contact: Steve Decker, (850) 488-3546,

Jack Brown, (850) 488-4284

Status:

Under a Governor's Executive Order declaring an emergency, the DOT does not have the authority or the power to establish, or enforce, the reservation of one traffic lane on limited access highways or any roadway for use by emergency responders.

The authority to establish and enforce the reservation of one traffic lane for such purposes would reside with the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) and ESF-16, Law Enforcement and Security, in the SEOC when it is activated under an Executive Order.

It is anticipated that the DOT, under ESF-1 in the SEOC, would provide cones, barricades, and other necessary traffic control devices to support a decision by the GAR and ESF-16 to reserve one traffic lane for emergency responders during the early post-disaster response and recovery time-period of an emergency.

Recommendation #72

Primary Agency: The 1993 Legislature

Brief Description: Authorize security and emergency response personnel to enter homes of special needs individuals that are in the registry.

Point of Contact: Steven Bradley (850) 922-9138

Status:

House Bill 911 amended 252.355, (F.S.), to 252.381 (1), allows people with special needs people have the option upon registering to pre-authorize emergency response personnel to enter their homes during search and rescue operations if necessary to assure their safety and welfare following disasters.

Recommendation #73

Primary Agency: The 1993 Legislature

Brief Description: Provide funding to the Florida National Guard (FNG) for planning, training, exercising and pre-deployment and immediate response to emergencies.

Point of Contact: Craig Fugate (850) 413-9837

Status:

The FNG received \$25,000 to initiate training and planning activities related to disaster response. Additional funds have been diverted to the FNG by the Department of Community Affairs to allow the FNG to plan, train and exercise Rapid Response Teams. The FNG has also been the recipient of several EMPA grants for this purpose.

Recommendation #74

Primary Agency: The 1993 Legislature

Brief Description: Amend Section 252.51, F.S., to broaden civil liability protection for good Samaritans to include private or public persons who volunteer goods, services, etc.

Point of Contact: Robert Byerts (850) 488-0410

Status:

The Legislature did not implement this recommendation. However, proposed legislation has been prepared and will be submitted by DCA for the 1998 Legislative Session.

Recommendation #75

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs (DCA)

Brief Description: Request that Congress direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal agencies to revise procedures related to:

1. Providing financial and material assistance to disaster victims to ensure fairness and equity; and
2. Ensure that minority contractors and local in-state firms are given first consideration for contracts.

Point of Contact: Craig Fugate (850) 413-9837

Status:

FEMA recently revised its rules guiding financial assistance to public entities. It appeared as an amendment to 44 Code of Federal Regulations, as described in the final rule which appeared in the Federal Register, September 14, 1993, Volume 58, Number 176, Page 47994. In essence, it disallows major costs that were eligible for reimbursement prior to the rule. DCA has expressed its extreme dissatisfaction with this new policy.

Some pre-initiated contracts are necessary to expedite recovery in disaster areas. The remaining contracts are awarded through the bid process. Minority and local in-state contractors are given priority when time, availability and ability to meet job specifications are present. The Division has formed a partnership with the Association of General Contractors of Florida. This will expedite debris removal in Florida by using

state-approved vendors.

Recommendation #76

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Request that Congress amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to require FEMA representatives to serve more pro-actively.

Point of Contact: Frank Koutnik (850) 413-9937

Status:

FEMA has completed revisions to the Federal Response Plan and the Regional Response Plan to provide for pre-deployment of personnel and equipment. This team will include advisors and consultants. The FEMA National Office and the State of Florida have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding that ensures that FEMA will serve more pro-actively following disasters.

Recommendation #77

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Request that Congress amend the Robert T. Stafford Act to provide for pre-deployment of the military to respond to catastrophic disaster.

Point of Contact: Craig Fugate (850) 413-9837

Status:

Prior to and during Hurricane Andrew, a Presidential Declaration was required to pre-deploy or immediately activate the military to respond to a catastrophic disaster. The Federal Response Plan now provides for pre-deployment of military resources if the state requests and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approves the "declaration of an emergency." Such a declaration will also activate the Federal Emergency Response Team-- Advanced (ERT-A) which consists of pre-identified personnel, equipment and supplies from all federal agencies that have local responsibility for an Emergency Support Function (ESF) in the Federal Response Plan. This concept has been demonstrated during the state's hurricane exercises and during real events.

Also, if the state is impacted by a Category 3 or higher hurricane, FEMA Headquarters will deploy a management team to supplement the regional office. These three teams, also known as the "Red," "White," and "Blue" teams, are essential in providing the highest level of disaster assistance to impacted areas.

Recommendation #78

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: FEMA should amend the Federal Response Plan to establish a security ESF.

Point of Contact: Cicero Hartsfield (850) 413-9893

Status:

FEMA has specified that the U.S. Department of Justice will coordinate all federal security and law enforcement activities during emergencies. Florida's ESF 16 will coordinate missions with the Department of Justice as needed.

Recommendation #79

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Request that U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) officials be on-site immediately following a disaster and remain until the relocation of all eligible persons has been accomplished.

Point of Contact: Shirley Collins (850) 413-9950

Status:

The Federal Response Plan (FRP) identifies the FEMA as the lead agency for temporary housing, with U.S. HUD as a support agency. The FRP procedures require that HUD set up in the disaster area immediately following a disaster.

Recommendation #80

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: The State of Florida should enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Air Force for aerial video and still photography of impacted areas.

Point of Contact: Steve Grantham (850) 413-9891

Status:

Aerial video and still photographs will be made available to the State of Florida by FEMA. FEMA will acquire the needed items from the appropriate federal agency (Department of Defense, National Aeronautic and Space Administration, and Army Corps of Engineers). This will be made available through the Federal Emergency Response Team-A (ERT-A) when they are deployed to the State Emergency Operations Center.

Recommendation #81

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Department of Military Affairs

Brief Description: Ensure that Rapid Assessment Teams are provided for in the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).

Point of Contact: Lt. Col. Jerry Vaughn (850) 823-0430

Status:

Five Rapid Impact Assessment Teams are in-place and will be deployed as needed to any disaster area. The teams are composed of members from DCA, Florida National Guard, Department of Transportation, Department of Health, Department of Law Enforcement, and other state and voluntary agencies.

The team(s) are deployed by the State Emergency Operations Center to predesignated sites and briefed. They are then transported, as soon as possible, to the disaster area by the National Guard by air, who also supplies ground transportation.

Recommendation #82

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: County Emergency Management agencies, with support from DCA, are encouraged to have certain computerized data sets.

Point of Contact: Steve Grantham (850) 413-9891

Status:

County entities have been requested to provide data sets for the State's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) which is the basis for the Emergency Management Information System. DCA supports the counties by providing a standardized data set structure to obtain the necessary information via the DEM Area Offices. Data is accepted in common formats and sometimes transmitted via satellite.

DCA has met with the Florida Department of Transportation, Planning Statistic Section, to coordinate with their GIS systems, specifically on roadway information. DOT has provided road maintenance and construction information to DCA that will be used in the event of an evacuation.

Work completed by Florida City and Monroe County after Hurricane Andrew resulted in a complete Integrated Emergency Management Information System that was used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and its contractors at the Disaster Field Office in Miami. Data sets within this system have been incorporated into the state's GIS. DCA has also acquired data sets representing "Essential Elements of Information" as described in the Federal Response Plan. Some of these items include critical facility locations, road ways, floodplain and storm surge information.

Recommendation #83

Primary Agency: County Governments

Brief Description: Counties should enter into agreements and contracts for operation of computerized data base systems.

Point of Contact: Steve Grantham (850) 413-9891

Status:

The Division of Emergency Management encourages local governments to enter into agreements with other agencies to provide technical personnel to assist in staffing computer base stations after the storm. DEM will maintain an inventory of those state agency personnel with the appropriate skills, and each state agency's computerized information system resources. DEM is proposing to county government that they place personnel and equipment (with the appropriate computerized data base system) in the county Emergency Operations Center prior to an impending disaster.

Recommendation #84

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Use computerized information systems in annual hurricane exercises.

Point of Contact: Steve Grantham (850) 413-9891

Status:

The Division of Emergency Management has used the GIS system in all statewide Hurricane and Radiological Emergency Preparedness exercises since 1994. In 1997, the GIS staff used the Internet to obtain information. The State EOC is using an electronic Message system, EM2000, to track and manage information and mission requests. DEM has provided each ESF with a copy of this program and a Pentium computer in the State EOC.

Recommendation #85

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Prepare a handbook on model post-disaster computer system procedures.

Point of Contact: Steve Grantham (850) 413-9891

Status:

A Standard Operating Procedure document was prepared for post-disaster GIS implementation. Due to increased capabilities, a new handbook will be prepared as soon as the GIS automation project, Phase I, is completed in June 1997. Meanwhile, ongoing training of systems and equipment continues as the GIS is expanded.

Recommendation #86

Primary Agency: Department of Health

Brief Description: Propose appropriate legislation to amend Chapter 252, F.S., regarding State Health Officer.

Point of Contact: Ellery Gray (850) 487-1911

Status:

The authority by law and other means already gives the State Health Officer sufficient authority to conduct all aspects of health and medical support during day-to-day operations, during emergencies, and other disasters. No additional authority is needed.

Recommendation #87

Primary Agency: Department of Health

Brief Description: The evacuation, shelter and post-disaster response and recovery elements of the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan contain components in emergency medical evacuation, availability of health care

professionals in shelters and Emergency Medical Services.

Point of Contact: Ellery Gray (850) 487-1191

Status:

The Department of Health has completed its portion of the Comprehensive Emergency Medical Plan. Section 8, "Emergency Support Function #8" addresses evacuation, shelter and post disaster response and recovery elements. Individual plans for emergency medical evacuation, availability of health care professionals in shelters, and emergency medical services are addressed individually in the DOH Emergency Response Plan Operating Procedures, Chapter U, "Shelters/Mass Care"; Chapter G, "Emergency Medical Services"; Chapter C, "Emergency Support Function #8."

Recommendation #88

Primary Agency: The 1993 Legislature

Brief Description: Amend Section 465.0275, Florida Statutes, to permit pharmacists to dispense one time emergency refills up to a 30-day supply.

Point of Contact: Rob Byerts (850) 4130410

Status:

House Bill 911 amended Section 465.0275, F.S., to read:

"with the exception of those areas of counties included in an emergency order or proclamation of a state of emergency declared by the Governor for which this

provision shall be extended up to a 30-day supply."

Recommendation #89

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Establish a uniform, single-point-of-receipt system for receiving and distributing supplies.

Point of Contact: Cicero Hartsfield (850) 413-9893

Status:

The Division of Emergency Management has created procedures to establish Regional Relief Centers following a disaster. The RRC would assist in coordinating volunteers and managing donations. The RRC would be located outside of the impacted area, possibly at a fairgrounds or farmer's market sites. This activity will be coordinated with ESF-15, Volunteers and Donations, and managed by a DEM representative. County Emergency Management Offices have identified potential sites that could be used to establish a RRC.

Recommendation #90

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Coordinate the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with suppliers of potable water.

Point of Contact: Cicero Hartsfield (850) 413-9893

Status:

This recommendation is addressed in the Response and Recovery elements of the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in Emergency Support Function #3 (Public Works and Engineering). It is detailed in the Standard Operating Procedures for ESF#11--Food and Water. The procedures have identified several sources for obtaining potable water by using dairy tankers and various beverage distributors who are able to manufacture and bottle drinking water within 24 hours.

Recommendation #91

Primary Agency: Department of Revenue

Brief Description: Amend the appropriate Florida Statutes (F.S.) related to tax code to authorize:

1. Waiving excise taxes on donated fuels for emergency purposes, and;
2. Extending due dates of tax returns and waiving interest during declared emergencies.

Point of Contact: Bebe Blount (850) 488-4328

Status:

House Bill 911 amended Chapter 213, F.S, to read:

"Section 213.055, F.S., declared emergency: authorized refunds: extension of due dates."

1. Section 213.055 (1)(a) authorizes the Governor and Cabinet to grant refunds to state and local taxes applicable to fuels donated for official emergency use.

2. Section 213.055(2) authorizes the Executive Director of the Department of Revenue to waive interest that accrues during the period of the state of emergency on taxes due

prior to and during the period of the disaster.

Recommendation #92

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs (DCA)

Brief Description: Create a public education program to educate people on what should and should not be donated.

Point of Contact: Craig Fugate (850) 413-9837

Status:

The Response and Recovery Element of the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan has established ESF 14 -- Public Information and ESF 15 -- Volunteers and Donations to assist in the coordination of requests for donations and managing voluntary agencies' efforts. Current procedures call for identifying early on what the public can and cannot donate by using the electronic and print media. Public Service Announcements will be developed to enlighten the public on what types of supplies should be donated.

Donated supplies will be warehoused in non-impacted counties at "Regional Relief Centers". Through this coordination, there will be a central point for donations and relief supplies.

Recommendation #93

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: The Post-Disaster Response and Recovery elements of state and county plans should include provisions for coordination of volunteers.

Point of Contact: Cicero Hartsfield (850) 413-9893

Status:

Volunteers and donations are a critical component of the disaster response and recovery process. DCA/DEM has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Florida Commission on Community Service designating them as the lead agency for ESF 15, Volunteers and Donations. This partnership will provide additional resources at the state and local level.

The FCCS will provide overall management of ESF 15 operations, enhance public-private participation and assist counties in developing ESF 15 components. This partnership with the FCCS has improved Florida's ability to mobilize volunteers to

meet the needs of disaster victims.

Recommendation #94

Primary Agency: Department of Community Affairs

Brief Description: Establish an Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Trust Fund.

Point of Contact: Frank Koutnik (850) 413-9937

Status:

Senate Bill 1858 established the Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Trust Fund that is administered by DCA. The funding source is an insurance surcharge established at \$2 per homeowner insurance policy and \$4 on certain business property-related policies to be paid by the policy holders. In 1997, the EMPATF allocation will exceed \$16 million. Since its inception, the trust fund has increased local emergency management capabilities through the acquisition of additional, professional personnel and equipment. Also, the competitive grant process has allowed state and county organizations to expand their emergency capabilities and warning efforts.