

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

- PRIMARY AGENCY:** Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- SUPPORT AGENCIES:** Department of Health, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences, Cooperative Extension and Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture Office of the Inspector General.
- VOLUNTEER RESOURCES:** Disaster Animal Response Teams, Florida Animal Control Association, Florida Association of Kennel Clubs, Florida Cattlemen's Association, Florida Farm Bureau, Florida Mosquito Control Association, Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association, Florida Veterinary Medical Association, Humane Society of the United States, Southeast Milk Incorporated, Southern Plant Diagnostic Network, Sunshine State Horse Council, and United Animal Nations with its Emergency Animal Rescue Service.

I. INTRODUCTION

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

II. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. GENERAL

1. Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, (State Emergency Management Act) mandates the development of the Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (the Plan) which establishes a framework through which the State of Florida prepares for, responds to, recovers from, and mitigates the impacts of a wide variety of disasters that could adversely affect the health, safety and/or general welfare of the residents of the state.
2. The Plan describes the basic strategies, assumptions, operational goals, objectives and mechanisms through which the state will mobilize resources and conduct response activities.

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

B. ORGANIZATION

1. Emergency Support Function 17 is responsible for animal and agricultural issues.
2. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry, is the primary agency for Emergency Support Function 17.
3. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry is responsible for providing sufficient personnel to staff the Emergency Support Function 17, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week while operational or as requested by the Division of Emergency Management.
4. A person from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry will be designated as the Emergency Coordinating Officer for Emergency Support Function 17 who will provide oversight for Emergency Support Function 17. The Emergency Support Function 17 Emergency Coordinating Officer's duties include, but are not limited to: acting as the Area Commander for Emergency Support Function 17, coordinating all Emergency Support Function 17 Incident Management Teams during an activation; assigning requests for assistance, and ensuring that requests for assistance are prioritized, met, and documented; assigning staff for support of the State Emergency Operations Center and liaison with other Emergency Support Functions at the State Emergency Operations Center.
5. Other Divisions and Offices from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provide direct support of Emergency Support Function 17. These include the Division of Agricultural Environmental Services, Division of Aquaculture, Division of Dairy, Division of Forestry,

Division of Plant Industry, Office of Ag Water Policy, Office of Agricultural Emergency Preparedness, and the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement. Depending upon the disaster or emergency these Divisions and Offices will assist the Division of Animal Industry as the lead agency for Emergency Support Function 17. They may also act as the lead agency for Emergency Support Function 17 if the circumstances of the disaster or emergency fall directly within their area of expertise or statutory authority.

6. Support agencies and volunteer resources will function in several capacities which include direct support of the State Emergency Operations Center or State Emergency Response Team; provide personnel and equipment for the Emergency Support Function 17 Incident Management Team and response activities; and participation in the State Agricultural Response Team providing guidance, setting priorities and providing resources in direct support of Emergency Support Function 17.

C. NOTIFICATION

1. The State Watch Office will notify the Emergency Coordinating Officer for Emergency Support Function 17 when an area of Florida is threatened or has been impacted by an emergency or disaster event.
2. The Emergency Support Function 17 Emergency Coordinating Officer will notify all support agencies and volunteer resources of the activation.
3. The Emergency Support Function 17 Emergency Coordinating Officer will notify Emergency Support Function 17 State Emergency Operations Center staff of the activation.

D. ACTIONS

1. Preparedness - Emergency Support Function 17 will:
 - a. Train personnel to staff Emergency Support Function 17 at the State Emergency Operations Center during an emergency activation.
 - b. Through State Agricultural Response Team, functioning as a Multi-Agency Coordination Group, provide coordination of preparedness activities and training through meetings, conferences and exercises for the primary and supporting agencies and volunteer resources' personnel.
 - c. Organize, train, and exercise the Emergency Support Function 17 Incident Management Team.
2. Response - Emergency Support Function 17 will:

- a. Staff Emergency Support Function 17 at the State Emergency Operations Center.
 - b. Support the actions of the State Emergency Response Team.
 - c. Activate the Emergency Support Function 17 Incident Management Team.
 - d. Through State Agricultural Response Team, functioning as a Multi-Agency Coordinating Group provide guidance, sets priorities and provide resources for Emergency Support Function 17.
 - e. Respond to resource requests from local governments in need.
 - f. Coordinate response activities with local government emergency management directors and Emergency Support Function 17 coordinators.
 - g. Coordinate response activities in support of the animal and agricultural industry professional organizations of Florida.
 - h. Support the activities of other Emergency Support Functions.
3. Recovery - Emergency Support Function 17 will:
 - a. Provide support to the Disaster Field Office after the State Emergency Operations Center is deactivated.
 - b. Support emergency services' staff and operations until the local system is self-sustaining.
 - c. Initiate financial reimbursement process for these activities when such support is available.
 4. Mitigation – Emergency Support Function 17 will:
 - a. Identify locations of animal and agriculture's critical infrastructure and assist with mitigation activities.
 - b. Identify and seek funds for disaster-proofing critical animal and agriculture infrastructure.
 - c. With the Division of Emergency Management and the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services provide statewide computerized access for Geographical Information Systems data related to animal and agricultural emergency management issues.

E. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

1. Emergency Support Function 17 is organized within the Incident Command System structure.

2. Usually the Emergency Response Coordinator For Emergency Support Function 17 acts as the Area Commander in the ICS structure with the State Emergency Operations Center supplying incident support functions.
3. The Emergency Support Function 17 Emergency Response Coordinator assigns Incident Commanders who activate Incident Management Teams that set up and operate from Incident Command Posts which coordinate response activities in the impacted area.
4. Supporting Emergency Support Function 17 is State Agricultural Response Team, acting as a Multi-Agency Coordinating Group that is composed of federal and state agencies and professional and volunteer organizations. State Agricultural Response Team provides guidance, sets priorities, and provides resources for Emergency Support Function 17.
5. The direct chain of command for Emergency Support Function 17 is as follows: Governor; State Emergency Coordinating Officer, State Emergency Response Team Chief, Operations Chief, Human Services Branch Chief (**see Chapter 4, Section M of the Basic Plan**); Emergency Support Function 17 Area Commander (usually the Emergency Support Function 17 Emergency Coordinating Officer); Emergency Support Function 17 Incident Commanders.
8. Also providing supervision and guidance to Emergency Support Function 17 is the leadership of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Division of Animal Industry.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. PRIMARY AGENCY – DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

1. Provide leadership in directing, coordinating and integrating overall state efforts related to animal and agricultural issues during a disaster or emergency.
2. Coordinate and direct the activation and deployment of support agencies and volunteer personnel and resources.
3. Identify and train sufficient personnel to adequately support Emergency Support Function 17 at the State Emergency Operations Center during an activation.
4. Coordinate activities with other Emergency Support Functions.
5. Provide leadership and be actively engaged in the State Agricultural Response Team which acts as a Multi-Agency Coordinating Group for Emergency Support Function 17.

6. Provide information and technical expertise on pet evacuation and sheltering, including pet friendly sheltering and special needs sheltering with pets.

B. SUPPORT AGENCIES

Support agencies are state or federal agencies that are required to provide assistance to Emergency Support Function 17 with staff, equipment, and supplies that complement the entire emergency response effort as the State Emergency Response Team addresses the consequences generated by the disaster or emergency.

1. Department of Health
 - a. Assist in the diagnoses, prevention, and control of zoonotic diseases of public health significance.
 - b. Provide guidance in the proper techniques and procedures to adequately protect Emergency Support Function 17 responders from contagious and infectious human and zoonotic diseases.
 - c. Assist in Emergency Support Function 17 response activities with the utilization of personnel and facilities.
2. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 - a. Assist in the evacuation of wildlife and exotic animals kept in major exhibits/wildlife dealers/circus facilities as needed.
 - b. Conduct damage assessments of permitted facilities housing wildlife or exotic animals.
 - c. Using specialized personnel and equipment, coordinate the capture of potentially dangerous or hazardous wildlife or exotic animals.
 - d. Assist in Emergency Support Function 17 response activities with the utilization of personnel and facilities.
3. University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine
 - a. Provide veterinary medical assistance for animals during a disaster or emergency.
 - b. Coordinate with the Florida Veterinary Medical Association response activities involving Florida's veterinary practitioners.
 - c. Provide expertise in the area of animal disease control and eradication.

- d. Assist in Emergency Support Function 17 response activities with the utilization of personnel and facilities.
4. University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences, Cooperative Extension and Research Service
 - a. Identify and educate commercial and non-commercial animal and agricultural producers in pertinent emergency management issues.
 - b. Provide expertise in the area of production agriculture as it relates to Emergency Support Function 17 response activities.
 - c. Assist in Emergency Support Function 17 response activities with the utilization of personnel and facilities.
 5. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
 - a. Assist in the diagnoses, prevention, and control of animal and plant diseases that threaten the animal and agricultural industries of Florida.
 - b. Assist in Emergency Support Function 17 response activities related to wildlife issues.
 - c. Assist in Emergency Support Function 17 response activities with the utilization of personnel and facilities.
 6. United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency
 - a. Assist in damage assessment activities related to animal and agriculture industries.
 - b. Provide information and assistance to impacted animal and agriculture producers about USDA-sponsored damage assistance programs.
 - c. Assist in Emergency Support Function 17 response activities with the utilization of personnel and facilities.
 7. United States Department of Agriculture Office of the Inspector General
 - a. Assist with response activities that prevent and detect fraud and abuse in programs and operations, both within USDA and in non-federal entities that receive USDA assistance.
 - b. Provide emergency law enforcement response to USDA declared emergencies and suspected incidents of terrorism affecting United States Department of Agriculture's regulated industries.

- c. Assist in Emergency Support Function 17 response activities with the utilization of personnel and facilities.

C. VOLUNTEER RESOURCES:

Volunteer resources are agencies or organizations that may, but are not required, to provide assistance to Emergency Support Function 17 with staff, equipment, and supplies that complement the entire emergency response effort as the State Emergency Response Team addresses the consequences generated by the disaster or emergency.

1. Disaster Animal Response Teams
2. Florida Animal Control Association
3. Florida Association of Kennel Clubs
4. Florida Cattlemen's Association
5. Florida Farm Bureau
6. Florida Mosquito Control Association
7. Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association
8. Florida Veterinary Medical Association
9. Humane Society of the United States
10. Southeast Milk, Incorporated
11. Southern Plant Diagnostic Network
12. Sunshine State Horse Council
13. United Animal Nations with its Emergency Animal Rescue Service

IV. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

1. Emergency Support Function 17 with assistance from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will be responsible for managing financial matters related to resources that are procured during an incident.
2. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will provide an organizational code for the existing incident. All expenditures by Emergency Support Function 17 shall reference this organizational code for cost recovery subsequent to the incident period.

3. In a federally declared disaster, a reimbursement formula is established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. When the reimbursement is less than 100 percent, the Governor's Office, together with legislative leadership, may reimburse agencies/departments for the difference. In some instances, the agencies/departments may be required to assume this financial responsibility from their regular budgets.

V. REFERENCES AND AUTHORITIES

- a. Florida Statutes 1993, Emergency Management, Chap. 252 (252.31-52.61).
- b. State of Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- c. Florida Field Operations Guide (FFOG)