

**St. Johns County
Florida**

***Comprehensive Emergency
Management Plan***

2021



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PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The St. Johns County Director of the Division of Emergency Management is mandated to coordinate the development and annual review of this plan by the officials and agencies involved and will coordinate necessary revision efforts through the Division of Emergency Management. This shall include critique of the actions taken in support of the plan following any event necessitating implementation of the plan.

This plan shall be exercised annually in lieu of actual response to real emergency events.

This plan shall be considered a “living plan” and with each use, either by exercise or incident, the plan shall be reviewed by ESF agencies and public officials with the intent of improving it.

St. Johns County Ordinance 2021-4 – Emergency Management Ordinance

LETTER OF PROMULGATION

Approval Date: xx / xx / 2021

TO: Officials, Employees, and Citizens of St. Johns County

The preservation of life, property and the environment is an inherent responsibility of local, state, and federal government. St. Johns County, in cooperation with the county's constitutional officers, municipalities, and nonprofit agencies, has prepared this Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) to ensure the most effective allocation of resources for the protection of people and property in time of an emergency.

While no plan can completely prevent injuries and damage, good plans carried out by knowledgeable and well-trained personnel can reduce losses. This plan establishes the emergency organization, assigns responsibilities, specifies policies, and provides for coordination of planning efforts of the various emergency staff and service elements using the Emergency Support Function concept.

The objective of this plan is to incorporate and coordinate the facilities and personnel of the County and its subsidiaries into an efficient organization capable of responding effectively to an emergency.

This CEMP is an extension of the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. The County will periodically review and exercise the plan and revise it as necessary to meet changing conditions.

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners gives its full support to this plan and urges all officials, employees and the citizens to do their part in the total emergency preparedness effort.

This letter promulgates the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, constitutes the adoption of the plan, and the adoption of National Incident Management System (NIMS). This emergency plan becomes effective on approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

Chair, Board of County Commissioners

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY
AGENCIES AND EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS
SIGNED CONCURRENCE**

The **County Administrator** concurs with and supports the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. As needed, revisions and changes will be submitted to the Emergency Management Division.

Signed: _____
Signature – County Administrator

The **Director of Emergency Management** concurs with and supports the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. As needed, revisions and changes will be submitted to the Emergency Management Division.

Signed: _____
Signature – Emergency Management Director

The **St. Johns County Sheriff** concurs with and supports the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. As needed, revisions and changes will be submitted to the Emergency Management Division.

Signed: _____
Signature – County Sheriff

The **St. Johns County Director of Public Works** concurs with and supports the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. As needed, revisions and changes will be submitted to the Emergency Management Division.

Signed: _____
Signature – Public Works Director

The **St. Johns County Director of Growth Management** concurs with and supports the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. As needed, revisions and changes will be submitted to the Emergency Management Division.

Signed: _____
Signature – Growth Management Director

The **St. Johns County Attorney** concurs with and supports the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. As needed, revisions and changes will be submitted to the Emergency Management Division.

Signed: _____
Signature – County Attorney

The **St. Johns County Office of Management and Budget Director** concurs with and supports the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. As needed, revisions and changes will be submitted to the Emergency Management Division.

Signed: _____
Signature – Office of Management and Budget Director

The **Clerk of County Court** concurs with and supports the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. As needed, revisions and changes will be submitted to the Emergency Management Division.

Signed: _____
Signature – Clerk of County Court

The **St. Johns County Director of Utilities** concurs with and supports the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. As needed, revisions and changes will be submitted to the Emergency Management Division.

Signed: _____
Signature – Director of Utilities

The **Superintendent of Schools** concurs with and supports the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. As needed, revisions and changes will be submitted to the Emergency Management Division.

Signed: _____
Signature – School Superintendent

The **St. Johns County Health Department Director** concurs with and supports the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. As needed, revisions and changes will be submitted to the Emergency Management Division.

Signed: _____
Signature – Health Department Director

The **St. Johns County Fire Rescue Chief** concurs with and supports the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. As needed, revisions and changes will be submitted to the Emergency Management Division.

Signed: _____
Signature – Fire Rescue Chief

FORWARD

The jurisdictions in St. Johns County have a responsibility for the safety of its citizens. Their safety and security depends on the continuation of government services, during and following an emergency or disaster.

St. Johns County Government is mandated by federal, state and local laws to ensure that mitigation efforts are enhanced; preparedness is encouraged; responsiveness is assured and recovery is achieved, efficiently and effectively, before, during and after human-caused and natural disasters (i.e., fires, hurricanes, tornadoes, chemical spills, floods, domestic and foreign acts of terrorism, etc.) that occur in St. Johns County. Through the County Administrative Code, adopted by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, the St. Johns County Division of Emergency Management has assumed responsibility for countywide emergency management.

One of the primary responsibilities of the St. Johns County Division of Emergency Management is to develop a local comprehensive emergency management plan. This plan addresses, as much as possible, all emergency response functions of local governmental departments and agencies, public officials, and other public and private organizations, during emergencies or disasters. The Division of Emergency Management, in cooperation and coordination with local municipalities, has achieved that objective by developing the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. This plan is designed to ensure that jurisdictions in St. Johns County can effectively prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters. This plan was developed with input from all local government departments and agencies that play a pivotal and functional role in emergencies or disasters.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) is an operation-orientated document authorized by Chapter 252, Florida Statutes. The CEMP establishes the framework to ensure that St. Johns County and its Municipalities will be adequately prepared to deal with all hazards threatening the lives and property of St. Johns County citizens. The CEMP outlines the roles, responsibilities and coordination mechanisms of local county and municipal governments, state and federal agencies and volunteer organizations in a disaster. The CEMP also coordinates response and recovery activities with voluntary organizations active in disasters and the business community. The plan unifies the efforts of these groups under the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Emergency Support Function (ESF) format with a designated lead agency for a comprehensive approach to mitigation, planning, response and recovery from identified hazards. The St. Johns County Division of Emergency Management extends its appreciation to all partner organizations that participated in the planning effort to create this document.

The Plan addresses the four phases of emergency management (preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation), parallels state activities outlined in the State of Florida CEMP, federal activities set forth in the "National Response Framework," and describes how local, state, and national resources will be coordinated to supplement local response and recovery capability. The CEMP is in compliance with the criteria issued for CEMP revisions by the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) in July of 2012.

The CEMP is organized into five (5) essential elements as follows:

The Basic Plan – outlines the general purpose, scope and methodology of the plan; coordination, control and organizational structure; concept of operations, and identifies responsibilities of all agencies and resources mobilized by the county to assist in recovering from a disaster. The CEMP enables the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners to discharge their responsibility for providing direction and control during any large-scale disaster.

Annex I – Recovery Functions. This annex outlines specific tasks or functions that may be carried out before, during and after a disaster and details control, coordination, planning efforts, and policies within St. Johns County designed to facilitate both immediate and long-term recovery after a disaster has occurred. These functions will provide for a rapid and orderly reestablishment of persons and property affected by a disaster occurring in St. Johns County. Specific tasks may be described in Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) or other operational plans utilized within St. Johns County.

Annex II – Mitigation Functions. The mitigation annex includes projects, policies, and programs that reduce the county’s vulnerability to the impacts of disasters before they occur. Much of the information, including a more in-depth analysis, for this Annex can be found in the Local Mitigation Strategy. The annex also details requirements and programs incorporated in post-disaster recovery efforts to prevent recurring losses from future disasters.

Annex III – National Incident Management System (NIMS) / Emergency Support Functions (ESF’s). These Emergency Support Function annexes detail, by name and organization, the lead, support, and coordinating entities and their roles and responsibilities in the four phases of an emergency. Each annex outlines specific tasks or functions that may be carried out before, during and after a disaster and/or emergency event. The tasks identified in this Annex utilize the Emergency Support Function (ESF) concept of the federal and state plans and is also applied to specific functions within the National Incident Management System (NIMS). These specific tasks may be described in Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s) or other operational plans utilized within St. Johns County by Emergency Management or other response and recovery agencies. Each ESF will respond when activated by the County Emergency Management Director.

Annex IV – Appendices. Appendices are located at the end of the plan and provide additional information associated with the CEMP.

The St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is considered a “living document” in that it is subject to continuous review and revision based on an ever-changing environment. CEMP participants are encouraged to question the effectiveness of their sections as they strive to provide the most efficient, effective response and recovery procedures possible with the available resources at their command.

Due to economic considerations, minor typographical errors that do not change the meaning of the CEMP or threaten life safety will be corrected during the annual review.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Instructions for Use

Overview: The St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) is an all-hazard disaster plan developed using State of Florida guidelines. This plan is divided into five main areas: The Basic Plan, Recovery Annex, Mitigation Annex, National Incident Management System (NIMS)/Emergency Support Function Annexes, and Appendices. All or part of the CEMP may be activated during emergencies or disasters depending on the type, magnitude, and duration of the event. Because disasters are dynamic, resource intensive, and unpredictable, this CEMP cannot cover every possible hazard that could occur. Instead, it covers those common activities needed to respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters.

I. Basic Plan

The Basic Plan details the policies, organization, concept of operations, and assignment of responsibilities necessary for St. Johns County's response and recovery operations. The Basic Plan includes attachments and appendices as necessary.

II. Recovery Annex

The Recovery Annex details the procedures for damage assessment, requests for Federal Disaster Assistance, Public and Individual Assistance Programs and Hazard Mitigation.

III. Mitigation Annex

The Mitigation Annex details the mitigation process during disaster situations. This Annex is supplemented with the St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy, with the majority of mitigation information being found in that document.

IV. National Incident Management System / Emergency Support Function Annexes

The Emergency Support Functions (ESF's) are organized into functional sections under the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Each section maintains an annex to the Basic Plan detailing the concept of operations for that section and the ESF's within that section. A standard outline is used for each section and ESF annex in order to ensure continuity of the CEMP and allow for easy reference.

V. Appendices and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's)

Included as Appendices, are the supporting documents to the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. For the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency

Management Plan to be complete, each EOC staff position and ESF lead agency must develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's). ESF Support agencies are encouraged to develop their own SOP's or checklists. Additionally, Emergency Management has developed and maintains National Incident Management System SOP's and / or checklists for the Emergency Operation Center as appropriate. Upon completion, each SOP will become part of this plan by reference, but is not included in this CEMP. SOP's are available from the lead ESF agencies. Additional SOP's, as needed, will be developed by St. Johns County and be included in the CEMP.

These SOP's will contain, in detail, those actions that are necessary to fulfill the EOC / ESF functional responsibilities under this plan. Each SOP should include some generic information such as increased readiness activities, disaster assignments, and resource lists. All SOP's will be dated and reviewed / updated annually.

Emergency Management will review each SOP for consistency with the CEMP. Inconsistencies or conflicts between departmental actions will be addressed and resolved by the departments / agencies or by the County Administrator or Board, if necessary.

EOC and ESF members may deviate from SOP's to respond to unique needs in a particular response. Major variations from procedures shall be coordinated with the EOC manager. Strict adherence to the SOP by agencies is not required.

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Activation - Monitoring Activation – will be implemented whenever the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) receives notice of an incident, which may escalate to threaten public safety.

Activation – Partial/Hazard Specific Activation – may be implemented by the EMD, or upon request of the Incident Commander (or their designees). Only those ESF's impacted by the hazard or involved in the response will be represented at the EOC.

Activation - Full County Activation – may be implemented for a major event. All ESF's, the Policy Group, the Liaison Group and Support Staff will be staffed 24 hours per day.

Advisory - A National Weather Service message giving storm location, intensity, movement, and precautions to be taken.

Agency - A division of government with a specific function offering a particular kind of assistance. In ICS, agencies are defined either as jurisdictional (having statutory responsibility for incident management) or as assisting or cooperating (providing resources or other assistance).

Agency Representative - A person assigned by a primary, assisting, or cooperating Federal, State, local, or tribal government agency or private entity that has been delegated authority to make decisions affecting that agency's or organization's participation in incident management activities following appropriate consultation with the leadership of that agency.

Alert St. Johns - a system that enables local government officials to record, send and track personalized messages to thousands of citizens in minutes via phone, text message, and email.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) - a volunteer group of amateur radio operators who may be activated by the Division of Emergency Management or ESF-2 to provide communications support in times of emergency

Area Command (Unified Area Command) - An organization established (1) to oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being handled by an ICS organization or (2) to oversee the management of large or multiple incidents to which several Incident Management Teams have been assigned. Area Command has the responsibility to set overall strategy and priorities, allocate critical resources according to priorities, ensure that incidents are properly managed, and ensure that objectives are met and strategies followed. Area Command becomes Unified Area Command when incidents are multijurisdictional. Area Command may be established at an emergency operations center facility or at some location other than an incident command post.

Assessment - The evaluation and interpretation of measurements and other information to provide a basis for decision-making.

Assignments - Tasks given to resources to perform within given operational periods that are based on operational objectives defined in the IAP.

Assistant - Title for subordinates of principal Command Staff positions. The title indicates a level of technical capability, qualifications, and responsibility subordinate to the primary positions. Assistants may also be assigned to unit leaders.

Assisting Agency - An agency or organization providing personnel, services, or other resources to the agency with direct responsibility for incident management. See also Supporting Agency.

Available Resources - Resources assigned to an incident, checked in, and available for a mission assignment, normally located in a Staging Area.

Basic Plan - describes the various types of emergencies, which are likely to occur in St. Johns County. It further provides procedures for disseminating warnings, coordinating response, ordering evacuations, opening shelters, and for determining, assessing, and reporting the severity and magnitude of such emergencies. The Basic Plan establishes the concept under which the County and municipal governments will operate in response to natural and technological disasters.

Branch - The organizational level having functional or geographical responsibility for major aspects of incident operations. A branch is organizationally situated between the section and the division or group in the Operations Section, and between the section and units in the Logistics Section. Branches are identified by the use of Roman numerals or by functional area.

Burn Sites - open areas identified for the collection and open burning of disaster caused debris.

Catastrophic Disaster - An incident that overwhelms the capability of local and state resources and requires federal assistance and / or resources. Example includes a direct landfall of a Category four or five hurricane.

Chain of Command - A series of command, control, executive, or management positions in hierarchical order of authority.

Check-In - The process through which resources first report to an incident. Check-in locations include the incident command post, Resources Unit, incident base, camps, staging areas, or directly on the site.

Chief - The ICS title for individuals responsible for management of functional sections: Operations, Planning, Logistics, Finance/Administration, and Intelligence (if established as a separate section).

Clearance Time - the clearance time is the mobilization, travel, and queuing delay time and is based on the number of people required to evacuate, the number of vehicles that may be used, the suitability of the roads (capacity, elevation, location, etc.) and then any special evacuation considerations such as medical facilities and people with special needs.

Coastal High Hazard Area - The coastal high-hazard area is the area below the elevation of the category 1 storm surge line as established by a Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) computerized storm surge model.

Comfort Stations - are managed under ESF 6 to provide basic emergency services to survivors such as food and water, health and first aid treatment, relief supplies, information, and temporary refuge.

Command - The act of directing, ordering, or controlling by virtue of explicit statutory, regulatory, or delegated authority.

Command Staff - In an incident management organization, the Command Staff consists of the Incident Command and the special staff positions of Public Information Officer, Safety Officer, Liaison Officer, and other positions as required, who report directly to the Incident Commander. They may have an assistant or assistants, as needed.

Common Operating Picture - A broad view of the overall situation as reflected by situation reports, aerial photography, and other information or intelligence. Communications Unit: An organizational unit in the Logistics Section responsible for providing communication services at an incident or an EOC. A Communications Unit may also be a facility (e.g., a trailer or mobile van) used to support an Incident Communications Center.

Comprehensive Emergency Management (CEM) - An integrated approach to the management of emergency programs and activities for all four emergency phases (mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery), for all types of emergencies and disasters (natural, human-caused, and attack), and for all levels of government and the private sector.

Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) - the purpose of the CEMP is to establish uniform policy and procedures for the effective coordination of response to a wide variety of natural and technological disasters.

Cooperating Agency - An agency supplying assistance other than direct operational or support functions or resources to the incident management effort.

Coordinate - To advance systematically an analysis and exchange of information among principals who have or may have a need to know certain information to carry out specific incident management responsibilities.

County Logistical Staging Area (CLSA) – location in the County where supply donations and volunteers will be received from the Regional Recovery Center for redistribution to County distribution points.

County Warning Point - is the location that the State will contact in case of an emergency. The primary County Warning Point is located in the Communications Center in the St. Johns County Fire / Rescue Dispatch Center. It is staffed 24 hrs. a day.

Critical Facility - A structure from which essential services and functions for health and human welfare, continuation of public safety actions, and / or disaster recovery are performed or provided.

Damage Assessment - An estimation of damages made after a disaster has occurred which serves as the basis of the Governor's request to the President for a declaration of Emergency or Major Disaster.

Deputy - A fully qualified individual who, in the absence of a superior, can be delegated the authority to manage a functional operation or perform a specific task. In some cases, a deputy can act as relief for a superior and, therefore, must be fully qualified in the position. Deputies can be assigned to the Incident Commander, General Staff, and Branch Directors.

Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) - is a readily accessible facility or mobile office where applicants may go for information about FEMA or other disaster assistance programs. These are only set up after federally declared disasters.

Dispatch - The ordered movement of a resource or resources to an assigned operational mission or an administrative move from one location to another.

Division - The partition of an incident into geographical areas of operation. Divisions are established when the number of resources exceeds the manageable span of control of the Operations Chief. A division is located within the ICS organization between the branch and resources in the Operations Section.

Drill - an activity that tests, develops, or maintains skills in a single emergency response procedure (communication drills, fire drills, emergency operation center drills, etc.). A drill usually involves actual field response, activation of emergency communications networks, equipment, and apparatus that would be used in a real emergency.

Emergency - Absent a Presidential declared emergency, any incident(s), human-caused or natural, that requires responsive action to protect life or property. Under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, an emergency means any

occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the President, Federal assistance is needed to supplement State and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States.

Emergency Alert System (EAS) - replaces the Emergency Broadcasting System as the primary relay and notification system for delivering emergency information to residents through the broadcast media.

Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) - The physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support domestic incident management activities normally takes place. An EOC may be a temporary facility or may be located in a more central or permanently established facility, perhaps at a higher level of organization within a jurisdiction. EOCs may be organized by major functional disciplines (e.g., fire, law enforcement, and medical services), by jurisdiction (e.g., Federal, State, regional, county, city, tribal), or some combination thereof.

Emergency Operations Plan - The "steady-state" plan maintained by various jurisdictional levels for responding to a wide variety of potential hazards.

Emergency Public Information - Information that is disseminated primarily in anticipation of an emergency or during an emergency. In addition to providing situational information to the public, it also frequently provides directive actions required to be taken by the general public.

Emergency Response - An incident is in progress or has occurred requiring local resources only. This includes vehicle accidents, fires, utility losses, etc.

Emergency Response Provider - Includes Federal, State, local, and tribal emergency public safety, law enforcement, emergency response, emergency medical (including hospital emergency facilities), and related personnel, agencies, and authorities. See Section 2 (6), Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135 (2002). Also known as Emergency Responder.

Emergency Support Function (ESF) - A functional area of response activity established to facilitate the delivery of county and / or state assistance required during the immediate response and recovery phases. The concept uses a functional approach to group response actions, which are most likely to be needed, under eighteen Emergency Support Functions (ESF's).

Evacuation - Organized, phased, and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of civilians from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.

Evacuation Zones - areas pre-designated by local emergency management officials as requiring evacuation for hazard vulnerability. Hurricane evacuation zones are normally

based on salt water, river and lake flooding from storm surge as determined by surge model data.

Event - A planned, none emergency activity. ICS can be used as the management system for a wide range of events. (e.g., parades, concerts, or sporting events).

Federal - Of or pertaining to the Federal Government of the United States of America.

Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) - the senior federal official appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Stafford Act to coordinate the overall federal response and recovery activities.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - the lead agency for federal emergency management planning and response.

Field Hospitals / Emergency Clinics - those sites where Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT's) or local hospitals / physicians may set-up temporary emergency clinics to provide emergency medical care in the disaster area. The locations are established to supplement the pre-existing medical network.

Full-scale Exercise - an exercise intended to evaluate the operational capability of emergency management systems in an interactive manner over a substantial period of time. It involves the testing of a major portion of the basic elements existing within emergency operations plans and organizations in a stress environment. This type of exercise includes the mobilization of personnel and resources and the actual movement of emergency workers, equipment, and resources required to demonstrate coordination and response capability.

Function - Function refers to the five major activities in ICS: Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration. The term function is also used when describing the activity involved. (e.g., the planning function). A sixth function, Intelligence, may be established, if required, to meet incident management needs.

Functional Exercise - an exercise intended to test or evaluate the capability of an individual function, or complex activity with a function. It is applicable where the activity is capable of being effectively evaluated in isolation from other emergency management activity.

General Staff - A group of incident management personnel organized according to function and reporting to the Incident Commander. The General Staff normally consists of the Operations Section Chief, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, and Finance/Administration Section Chief.

Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) - is designated as the lead person to represent the Governor in disaster response and recovery.

Group - Established to divide the incident management structure into functional areas of operation. Groups are composed of resources assembled to perform a special function not necessarily within a single geographic division. Groups, when activated, are located between branches and resources in the Operations Section. (See Division)

Hazard - Something that is potentially dangerous or harmful, often the root cause of an unwanted outcome.

Hazard Mitigation - is the process of potential improvements that would reduce or remove the hazard vulnerability.

Hazardous Material Sites - sites pre-identified in the County Hazardous Materials Vulnerability Analysis as containing extremely hazardous substances.

Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA) - The process of collecting information about local hazards, risks to those hazards, the extent to which they threaten local populations, and the vulnerability the hazards present. An HVA may include mitigation measures required to abate the hazards, priority/goal settings, and funding mechanisms available for hazard reduction.

Hurricane - a tropical weather system characterized by pronounced rotary circulation with a constant minimum wind speed of 74 miles per hour (64 knots) that is usually accompanied by rain, thunder and lightning, and storm surge. Hurricanes often spawn tornadoes.

Hurricane Eye - the roughly circular area of comparatively light winds and fair weather at the center of a hurricane. Eyes are usually 25-30 miles in diameter. The area around the eye is called the wall cloud. * *Do not go outdoors while the eye is passing, the intensity of the storm will reoccur in minutes.*

Hurricane Landfall - the point and time during which the eye of the hurricane passes over the shoreline. After passage of the calm eye, hurricane winds begin again with the same intensity as before but from the opposite direction.

Hurricane Season - the six-month period from June 1st through November 30th considered the hurricane season.

Hurricane Warning - An announcement from the National Hurricane Center that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are *expected* somewhere within the specified area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

Hurricane Watch - An announcement from the National Hurricane Center that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are *possible* within the specified area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical

storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

Incident - An occurrence or event, natural or human-caused that requires an emergency response to protect life or property. Incidents can, for example, include major disasters, emergencies, terrorist attacks, terrorist threats, wildland and urban fires, floods, hazardous materials spills, nuclear accidents, aircraft accidents, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, tropical storms, war-related disasters, public health and medical emergencies, and other occurrences requiring an emergency response.

Incident Action Plan - An oral or written plan containing general objectives reflecting the overall strategy for managing an incident. It may include the identification of operational resources and assignments. It may also include attachments that provide direction and important information for management of the incident during one or more operational periods.

Incident Command Post (ICP) - The field location at which the primary tactical-level, on-scene incident command functions are performed. The ICP may be collocated with the incident base or other incident facilities and is normally identified by a green rotating or flashing light.

Incident Command System (ICS) - A standardized on-scene emergency management construct specifically designed to provide for the adoption of an integrated organizational structure that reflects the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. ICS is the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure, designed to aid in the management of resources during incidents. It is used for all kinds of emergencies and is applicable to small as well as large and complex incidents. ICS is used by various jurisdictions and functional agencies, both public and private, to organize field-level incident management operations.

Incident Commander (IC) - The individual responsible for all incident activities, including the development of strategies and tactics and the ordering and the release of resources. The IC has overall authority and responsibility for conducting incident operations and is responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site.

Incident Management Team (IMT) - The IC and appropriate Command and General Staff personnel assigned to an incident.

Incident Objectives - Statements of guidance and direction necessary for selecting appropriate strategy(s) and the tactical direction of resources. Incident objectives are based on realistic expectations of what can be accomplished have been effectively deployed. Incident objectives must be achievable and measurable, yet flexible enough to allow strategic and tactical alternatives.

Individual Assistance - is provided to individuals and private business in the form of grants and low interest loans by the Federal government.

Initial Action - The actions taken by those responders first to arrive at an incident site.

Initial Response - Resources initially committed to an incident.

In-Place Shelter - means that residents will be advised to remain in their homes with the windows closed and all open-air circulation systems turned off. In-place sheltering should not be implemented when the sheltering duration is expected to exceed two hours. If it is determined that sheltering will exceed two hours, it is best to evacuate.

Intelligence Officer - The intelligence officer is responsible for managing internal information, intelligence, and operational security requirements supporting incident management activities. These may include information security and operational security activities, as well as the complex task of ensuring that sensitive information of all types (e.g., classified information, law enforcement sensitive information, proprietary information, or export-controlled information) is handled in a way that not only safeguards the information, but also ensures that it gets to those who need access to it to perform their missions effectively and safely.

Joint Field Office (JFO) - is established in or near the designated area to support State and Federal response and recovery operations. The JFO houses the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) and the Emergency Response Team (ERT), and where possible, the State Coordinating Officer (SCO) and support staff.

Joint Information Center (JIC) - A facility established to coordinate all incident-related public information activities. It is the central point of contact for all news media at the scene of the incident. Public information officials from all participating agencies should collocate at the JIC.

Joint Information System (JIS) - Integrates incident information and public affairs into a cohesive organization designed to provide consistent, coordinated, timely information during crisis or incident operations. The mission of the JIS is to provide a structure and system for developing and delivering coordinated interagency messages; developing, recommending, and executing public information plans and strategies on behalf of the IC; advising the IC concerning public affairs issues that could affect a response effort; and controlling rumors and inaccurate information that could undermine public confidence in the emergency response effort.

Jurisdiction - A range or sphere of authority. Public agencies have jurisdiction at an incident related to their legal responsibilities and authority. Jurisdictional authority at an incident can be political or geographical (e.g., city, county, tribal, State, or Federal boundary lines) or functional (e.g., law enforcement, public health).

Landing Zone - Any designated location where a helicopter can safely take off and land. Some heliports may be used for loading of supplies, equipment, or personnel.

Liaison - An agency official sent to another agency to facilitate interagency communications and coordination. A form of communication for establishing and maintaining mutual understanding and cooperation.

Liaison Officer - A member of the Command Staff responsible for coordinating with representatives from cooperating and assisting agencies.

Local Government - A county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government; an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or in Alaska a Native village or Alaska Regional Native Corporation; a rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity.

Local State of Emergency - will be declared whenever an evacuation is ordered by the Board of County Commissioners or the County Administrator / Director of Emergency Management, normal community functions are severely disrupted, St. Johns County Government requires outside assistance, or as deemed necessary by the Policy Group.

Logistics - Providing resources and other services to support incident management. Logistics Section: The section responsible for providing facilities, services, and material support for the incident.

Logistics Section - All incident support needs are provided by the Logistics Section. The Logistics Section is managed by the Logistics Section Chief, who may assign a Deputy. The Logistics Section consists of the following units: Supply Unit, Facilities Unit, Ground Support Unit, Communications Unit, Food Unit, and Medical Unit.

Logistical Staging Area (LSA) - may be established by the State to receive, classify, and account for emergency relief and sustainment supplies and goods solicited by the State and which may, upon request, be distributed to county distribution points.

Long -Term Recovery Phase - begins within a week of the disaster impact and may continue for years. Long-term recovery activities include: on-going human service delivery; rebuilding the economy, infrastructure, and homes; implementation of hazard mitigation projects, and funds recovery.

Major Disaster - As defined under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122), a major disaster is any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought), or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in any part of the United States, which

in the determination of the President causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under this Act to supplement the efforts and available resources of States, tribes, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.

Management by Objective - A management approach that involves a four-step process for achieving the incident goal. The Management by Objectives approach includes the following: establishing overarching objectives; developing and issuing assignments, plans, procedures, and protocols; establishing specific, measurable objectives for various incident management functional activities and directing efforts to fulfill them, in support of defined strategic objectives; and documenting results to measure performance and facilitate corrective action.

Mandatory Evacuation Order - will be issued when there is a definite threat to life safety. Failure to comply with a mandatory evacuation order is a misdemeanor under Florida Statute 252.50.

Mass Feeding Sites - temporary locations strategically placed near the disaster area where residents can go for a meal. Food may also be distributed to take home from these locations.

Minor Disaster - An incident that is likely to be within the response capability of local government and to result in only minimal need for State and Federal assistance.

Mitigation - The activities designed to reduce or eliminate risks to persons or property or to lessen the actual or potential effects or consequences of an incident. Mitigation measures may be implemented prior to, during, or after an incident. Mitigation measures are often informed by lessons learned from prior incidents. Mitigation involves ongoing actions to reduce exposure to, probability of, or potential loss from hazards. Measures may include zoning and building codes, floodplain buyouts, and analysis of hazard-related data to determine where it is safe to build or locate temporary facilities. Mitigation can include efforts to educate governments, businesses, and the public on measures they can take to reduce loss and injury.

Mobilization - The process and procedures used by all organizations— Federal, State, local, and tribal—for activating, assembling, and transporting all resources that have been requested to respond to or support an incident.

Multiagency Coordination Systems - Multiagency coordination systems provide the architecture to support coordination for incident prioritization, critical resource allocation, communications systems integration, and information coordination. The components of multiagency coordination systems include facilities, equipment, emergency operation centers (EOCs), specific multiagency coordination entities, personnel, procedures, and communications. These systems assist agencies and organizations to fully integrate the subsystems of the NIMS.

Multijurisdictional Incident - An incident requiring action from multiple agencies that each have jurisdiction to manage certain aspects of an incident. In ICS, these incidents will be managed under Unified Command.

Mutual-Aid Agreement - Written agreement between agencies and/or jurisdictions that they will assist one another on request, by furnishing personnel, equipment, and/or expertise in a specified manner.

National - Of a nationwide character, including the Federal, State, local, and tribal aspects of governance and polity.

National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) - is a federally coordinated system that augments the Nation's medical response capability. The overall purpose of the NDMS is to supplement an integrated National medical response capability for assisting State and local authorities in dealing with the medical impacts of major peacetime disasters. The National Response Framework utilizes the NDMS as part of the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Preparedness and Response, under Emergency Support Function 8, Health and Medical Services.

National Incident Management System (NIMS) - A system mandated by HSPD-5 that provides a consistent nationwide approach for Federal, State, local, and tribal governments; the private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity. To provide for interoperability and compatibility among Federal, State, local, and tribal capabilities, the NIMS includes a core set of concepts, principles, and terminology. HSPD-5 identifies these as the ICS; multiagency coordination systems; training; identification and management of resources (including systems for classifying types of resources); qualification and certification; and the collection, tracking, and reporting of incident information and incident resources.

NFIP Flood Zones - areas designated by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as being vulnerable to velocity and / or freshwater flooding based on the 100 and 500 year storms. Flood zones include inland areas.

Nongovernmental Organization - An entity with an association that is based on interests of its members, individuals, or institutions and that is not created by a government, but may work cooperatively with government. Such organizations serve a public purpose, not a private benefit. Examples of NGOs include faith-based charity organizations and the American Red Cross.

Operational Period - The time scheduled for executing a given set of operation actions, as specified in the Incident Action Plan. Operational periods can be of various lengths, although usually not over 24 hours.

Operations Section - The section responsible for all tactical incident operations. In ICS, it normally includes subordinate branches, divisions, and/or groups.

Personnel Accountability - The ability to account for the location and welfare of incident personnel. It is accomplished when supervisors ensure that ICS principles and processes are functional and that personnel are working within established incident management guidelines.

Plan - A plan mandated by HSPD-5 that integrates Federal domestic prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery plans into one all-discipline, all-hazards plan.

Planning Meeting - A meeting held as needed prior to and throughout the duration of an incident to select specific strategies and tactics for incident control operations and for service and support planning. For larger incidents, the planning meeting is a major element in the development of the Incident Action Plan (IAP).

Planning Section - Responsible for the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of operational information related to the incident, and for the preparation and documentation of the IAP. This section also maintains information on the current and forecasted situation and on the status of resources assigned to the incident.

Points of Distribution (POD) - locations where donations of food, water, and other supplies received from the State Resource Center will be given directly to residents. Distribution Points may be located in parking lots or open fields in the disaster area, as close to survivors as possible.

Post-Impact Response Phase - begins once the disaster occurs and may continue for up to a month. This phase includes the following activities: communications, public information, hazard abatement, search and rescue (SAR), emergency medical service delivery, temporary shelter, impact / needs assessment, security, re-entry, traffic control, debris clearance, resource distribution, and volunteer management.

Pre-Impact Response Phase - is the monitoring and preparedness phase before disaster strikes. This phase may begin up to 48 hours before an incident (hurricane) and continues until the disaster occurs. This phase includes hazard monitoring / tracking, incident notification, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation, public information and warning, evacuation, sheltering (in-place and relocation), and communications and coordination activities.

Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) – is preformed immediately after a disaster event in order to gauge the impacts to a community and to determine if the disaster event is beyond the capacity of state and local resources. It is a data collection process performed by federal, state and local officials. The data collected is then reported to the state for a determination to be made as to whether a presidentially declared disaster should be requested.

Preparedness - The range of deliberate, critical tasks and activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the operational capability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents. Preparedness is a continuous process. Preparedness involves efforts at all levels of government and between government and private-sector and nongovernmental organizations to identify threats, determine vulnerabilities, and identify required resources. Within NIMS, preparedness is operationally focused on establishing guidelines, protocols, and standards for planning, training and exercises, personnel qualification and certification, equipment certification, and publication management.

Preparedness Organizations - The groups that provide interagency coordination for domestic incident management activities in a non-emergency context. Preparedness organizations can include all agencies with a role in incident management, for prevention, preparedness, response, or recovery activities. They represent a wide variety of committees, planning groups, and other organizations that meet and coordinate to ensure the proper level of planning, training, equipping, and other preparedness requirements within a jurisdiction or area.

Prevention - Actions to avoid an incident or to intervene to stop an incident from occurring. Prevention involves actions to protect lives and property. It involves applying intelligence and other information to a range of activities that may include such countermeasures as deterrence operations; heightened inspections; improved surveillance and security operations; investigations to determine the full nature and source of the threat; public health and agricultural surveillance and testing processes; immunizations, isolation, or quarantine; and, as appropriate, specific law enforcement operations aimed at deterring, preempting, interdicting, or disrupting illegal activity and apprehending potential perpetrators and bringing them to justice.

Primary Agency - each ESF is headed by a primary agency, which has been selected based on its authorities, resources and capabilities.

Private Sector - Organizations and entities that are not part of any governmental structure. It includes for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, formal and informal structures, commerce and industry, and private voluntary organizations (PVO). Processes: Systems of operations that incorporate standardized procedures, methodologies, and functions necessary to provide resources effectively and efficiently. These include resource typing, resource ordering and tracking, and coordination.

Public Assistance - is the reimbursement and emergency assistance provided to State and local governments and private non-profit entities from the Federal government.

Public Information Officer - A member of the Command Staff responsible for interfacing with the public and media or with other agencies with incident-related information requirements.

Publications Management - The publications management subsystem includes materials development, publication control, publication supply, and distribution. The

development and distribution of NIMS materials is managed through this subsystem. Consistent documentation is critical to success, because it ensures that all responders are familiar with the documentation used in a particular incident regardless of the location or the responding agencies involved.

Qualification and Certification - This subsystem provides recommended qualification and certification standards for emergency responder and incident management personnel. It also allows the development of minimum standards for resources expected to have an interstate application. Standards typically include training, currency, experience, and physical and medical fitness.

Rapid Response Team (RRT) - A set of four types of operations teams established by the State of Florida to provide assistance to impacted counties using personnel from non-impacted counties.

Reception Area - This refers to a location separate from staging areas, where resources report in for processing and out-processing. Reception Areas provide accountability, security, situational awareness briefings, safety awareness, distribution of IAPs, supplies and equipment, feeding, and bed down.

Recommended Evacuation - will be issued when it is determined that the hazard may cause discomfort to residents and minimal damage to property, but it is not expected to threaten life safety.

Recovery - The development, coordination, and execution of service- and site-restoration plans; the reconstitution of government operations and services; individual, private-sector, nongovernmental, and public-assistance programs to provide housing and to promote restoration; long-term care and treatment of affected persons; additional measures for social, political, environmental, and economic restoration; evaluation of the incident to identify lessons learned; post incident reporting; and development of initiatives to mitigate the effects of future incidents.

Recovery Plan - A plan developed by a State, local, or tribal jurisdiction with assistance from responding Federal agencies to restore the affected area.

Resources - Personnel and major items of equipment, supplies, and facilities available or potentially available for assignment to incident operations and for which status is maintained. Resources are described by kind and type and may be used in operational support or supervisory capacities at an incident or at an EOC.

Resource Management - Efficient incident management requires a system for identifying available resources at all jurisdictional levels to enable timely and unimpeded access to resources needed to prepare for, respond to, or recover from an incident. Resource management under the NIMS includes mutual-aid agreements; the use of special Federal, State, local, and tribal teams; and resource mobilization protocols.

Resources Unit - Functional unit within the Planning Section responsible for recording the status of resources committed to the incident. This unit also evaluates resources currently committed to the incident, the effects additional responding resources will have on the incident, and anticipated resource needs.

Response - Activities that address the short-term, direct effects of an incident. Response includes immediate actions to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs. It consists of tiered efforts designed to be managed at the lowest possible jurisdictional level and supported by additional response capabilities when needed. Response also includes the execution of emergency operations plans and of mitigation activities designed to limit the loss of life, personal injury, property damage, and other unfavorable outcomes. As indicated by the situation, response activities include applying intelligence and other information to lessen the effects or consequences of an incident; increased security operations; continuing investigations into nature and source of the threat; ongoing public health and agricultural surveillance and testing processes; immunizations, isolation, or quarantine; and specific law enforcement operations aimed at preempting, interdicting, or disrupting illegal activity, and apprehending actual perpetrators and bringing them to justice.

Saffir / Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale - is used by the National Hurricane Center and is a 1 to 5 categorization based on the hurricane's intensity at the indicated time. The scale provides examples of the type of damage and impacts in the United States associated with winds of the indicated intensity.

Safety Officer - A member of the Command Staff responsible for monitoring and assessing safety hazards or unsafe situations and for developing measures for ensuring personnel safety.

Section - The organizational level having responsibility for a major functional area of incident management (e.g., Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration). The section is organizationally situated between the branch and the Incident Command.

Security Checkpoints - those locations where all traffic will be stopped to check for identification in order to determine access to the disaster area.

Shelters - temporary emergency shelters activated prior to a disaster impact, operated during the disaster and closed as soon as residents can be returned to their homes or relocated to long-term shelters or temporary housing areas.

Short-Term Recovery Phase - may begin immediately after the disaster impact and continues for approximately six months. The Short-Term Recovery Phase includes the implementation of individual assistance programs, through Disaster Application Centers (DAC's) and Red Cross Service Centers, and public assistance programs through damage survey teams and forms completion. Other short-term activities include: long-term sheltering (hotels / motels, mobile homes, tent cities, etc.), on-going human service delivery, debris removal, contractor licensing, permitting and inspections.

Situation Report (SITREP) - a summary of events, actions taken and anticipated in response to an emergency. SITREP's will be issued as needed. As a guide SITREP's should be issued daily during a monitoring activation and at least twice per day during a full activation.

Span of Control - The number of individuals a supervisor is responsible for usually expressed as the ratio of supervisors to individuals. (Under the NIMS, an appropriate span of control is between 1:3 and 1:7.)

Special Needs Program - the program through which impaired persons who need special assistance in times of emergency, are registered, evacuated, and sheltered.

Staging Area - Location established where resources can be placed while awaiting a tactical assignment. The Operations Section manages Staging Areas.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) - A ready and continuous reference to those roles, relationships and procedures within an organization which are used for the accomplishment of broad or specialized functions which augment the CEMP. They are developed by primary and support agencies as needed to implement their responsibilities under the ESF Annexes.

State - When capitalized, refers to any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States. See Section 2 (14), Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135 (2002).

State Emergency Response Team (SERT) - coordinates State of Florida response and recovery functions through 17 Emergency Support Functions.

SERT Liaison Officer (SERTLO) - provides the communication and coordination link between the SERT in the State Emergency Operations Center and the County EOC Team.

State of Emergency - issued by the Governor.

Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement for Disaster Response and Recovery (SMAA) - is the chief agreement, between counties and the State for providing mutual aid assistance, which details request and reimbursement procedures.

State Watch Office (SWO) - is the 24-hour answering point in the State Emergency Operations Center for reports of emergencies and / or requests for State assistance.

Storm Surge - An abnormal rise in sea level accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm, and whose height is the difference between the observed level of the sea surface

and the level that would have occurred in the absence of the cyclone. Storm surge is usually estimated by subtracting the normal or astronomic high tide from the observed storm tide.

Storm Surge Model Data - is based on the SLOSH (Sea Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes) model that shows those areas expected to be inundated with salt water flooding during a hurricane. County evacuation zones are based on storm surge model data.

Strategic - Strategic elements of incident management are characterized by continuous long-term, high-level planning by organizations headed by elected or other senior officials. These elements involve the adoption of long-range goals and objectives, the setting of priorities; the establishment of budgets and other fiscal decisions, policy development, and the application of measures of performance or effectiveness.

Strike Team - A set number of resources of the same kind and type that have an established minimum number of personnel.

Strategy - The general direction selected to accomplish incident objectives set by the IC.

Support Agency – agency in support for one or more ESF's based on their resources and capabilities to support the functional area.

Supporting Technologies - Any technology that may be used to support NIMS is included in this subsystem. These technologies include ortho-photo mapping, remote automatic weather stations, infrared technology, and communications, among various others.

Tabletop Exercise - an activity in which exercise participants are presented with simulated emergency situations without time constraints. It is intended to evaluate plans and procedures, and to resolve questions of coordination and assignments of responsibility. Tabletop exercises are not concerned with time pressures, stress, or actual simulation of specific events.

Task Force - Any combination of resources assembled to support a specific mission or operational need. All resource elements within a Task Force must have common communications and a designated leader.

Technical Assistance - Support provided to State, local, and tribal jurisdictions when they have the resources but lack the complete knowledge and skills needed to perform a required activity (such as mobile-home park design and hazardous material assessments).

Temporary Housing Areas - where tents or mobile home units may be set-up for residents to live before they are able to return to their own homes or until they find a new home.

Temporary Debris Storage Area - park, open area or landfill space where debris will be held after debris clearance until it can be moved to a landfill, incinerator, or other appropriate disposal location.

Terrorism - Under the Homeland Security Act of 2002, terrorism is defined as activity that involves an act dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources and is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State or other subdivision of the United States in which it occurs and is intended to intimidate or coerce the civilian population or influence a government or affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping. See Section 2 (15), Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135 (2002).

Threat - An indication of possible violence, harm, or danger.

Tools - Those instruments and capabilities that allow for the professional performance of tasks, such as information systems, agreements, doctrine, capabilities, and legislative authorities.

Tornado - A violently rotating column of air, usually pendant to a cumulonimbus, with circulation reaching the ground. It nearly always starts as a funnel cloud and may be accompanied by a loud roaring noise. On a local scale, it is the most destructive of all atmospheric phenomena. In Florida they form most frequently in spring and summer.

Tornado Warning - is issued by the local National Weather Service office (NWFO) when a funnel is sighted by spotters or indicated by radar. It will include where the tornado was located and what towns will be in its path.

Tornado Watch - is issued by the National Weather Service when conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes in and close to the watch area. Their size can vary depending on the weather situation. They are usually issued for a duration of 4 to 8 hours.

Tribal - Any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaskan Native Village as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act (85 stat. 688) [43 U.S.C.A. and 1601 et seq.], that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

Tropical Storm - a tropical cyclone with sustained surface winds of 39-74 mph. A tropical storm may strengthen to hurricane force in a short period of time.

Tropical Storm Watch – is issued by the National Hurricane Center when tropical storm conditions winds of 39 to 73 mph, are possible within the specified area within 48 hours in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone

Tropical Storm Warnings - issued by the National Hurricane Center when tropical storm conditions, winds of 39 to 73 mph, are expected somewhere within the specified area within 36 hours in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone. If a hurricane is expected to strike a coastal area, separate tropical storm warnings may precede hurricane warnings.

Traffic Control Points - key intersections on the road network where staff may be needed to physically control traffic flow.

Transportation Bottlenecks - those locations identified by transportation planners where traffic back-ups during evacuation or re-entry are expected to occur.

Type - A classification of resources in the ICS that refers to capability. Type 1 is generally considered to be more capable than Types 2, 3, or 4, respectively, because of size; power; capacity; or, in the case of incident management teams, experience and qualifications.

Unified Area Command - A Unified Area Command is established when incidents under an Area Command are multijurisdictional. (See Area Command.)

Unified Command - An application of ICS used when there is more than one agency with incident jurisdiction or when incidents cross political jurisdictions. Agencies work together through the designated members of the UC, often the senior person from agencies and/or disciplines participating in the UC, to establish a common set of objectives and strategies and a single IAP.

Unit - The organizational element having functional responsibility for a specific incident planning, logistics, or finance/administration activity.

Unity of Command - The concept by which each person within an organization reports to one, and only one, designated person. The purpose of unity of command is to ensure unity of effort under one responsible commander for every objective.

Volunteer - For purposes of the NIMS, a volunteer is any individual accepted to perform services by the lead agency, which has authority to accept volunteer services, when the individual performs services without promise, expectation, or receipt of compensation for services performed.

ACRONYMS

| | |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------|
| ACP | Area Contingency Plan |
| AHCA | Agency for Health Care Administration |
| ALF | Assisted Living Facility |
| ALS | Advanced Life Support |
| AOR | Area of Responsibility |
| ARC | American Red Cross |
| ARES | Amateur Radio Emergency Service |
| BC | Bureau Chief |
| BFE | Base Flood Elevation |
| BPR | Bureau of Preparedness and Response |
| BRM | Bureau of Recovery and Mitigation |
| CAP | Civil Air Patrol |
| CDBG | Community Development Block Grant |
| CDC | Center for Disease Control and Prevention |
| CEMP | Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan |
| CEO | Chief Executive Order |
| CERT | Community Emergency Response Team |
| CIC | Citizens Information Center |
| CO | Central Office / Commanding Officer |
| COG | Continuity of Government |
| CONUS | Continental United States |
| COOP | Continuity of Operations |
| CP | Command Post |
| CRS | Community Rating System |
| CSBG | Community Service Block Grant |
| CWP | County Warning Point |
| DACS | Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services |
| DAP | Disaster Assistance Programs |
| DAT | Damage Assessment Teams |
| DCA | Department of Community Affairs |
| DCF | Department of Children and Families |
| DEM | Division of Emergency Management |
| DEP | Department of Environmental Protection |
| DHSMV | Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles |
| DMA | Department of Military Affairs |
| DMAT | Disaster Medical Assistance Team |

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|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| DMORT | Disaster Mortuary Response Team |
| DMS | Department of Management Services |
| DO | Duty Officer |
| DOC | Department of Corrections |
| DOD | Department of Defense |
| DOEA | Department of Elder Affairs |
| DOF | Division of Forestry |
| DOJ | Department of Justice |
| DOT | Department of Transportation |
| DRC | Disaster Recovery Center |
| DSCO | Deputy State Coordinating Officer |
| EAS | Emergency Alerting System |
| EBS | Emergency Broadcast System |
| ECC | Emergency Communications Center |
| ECO | Emergency Coordinating Officer |
| EEI | Elements of Essential Information |
| EM | Emergency Management |
| EMAC | Emergency Management Assistance Compact |
| EMD | Emergency Management Director |
| EMI | Emergency Management Institute |
| EMPA | Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Trust Fund |
| EO | Executive Order |
| EOC | Emergency Operations Center |
| EOP | Emergency Operations Plan |
| EPCRA | Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act |
| ERT | Emergency Response Team – Federal |
| ESF | Emergency Support Function |
| ETO | Exercise Training Officer |
| F.S.S | Florida State Statute |
| FSERT | Forward State Emergency Response Team |
| FAC | Florida Administrative Code |
| FCC | Federal Communications Commission |
| FCG | Florida Coordinating Group |
| FCO | Federal Coordinating Officer |
| FDEM | Florida Division of Emergency Management |
| FDLE | Florida Department of Law Enforcement |
| FEMA | Federal Emergency Management Agency |
| FEPA | Florida Emergency Preparedness Association |

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|----------|---------------------------------------------------|
| FWCC | Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission |
| FFS | Florida Forest Service |
| FHP | Florida Highway Patrol |
| FIRM | Flood Insurance Rate Map |
| FDOT | Florida Department of Transportation |
| FMAP | Flood Mitigation Assistance Program |
| FMP | Florida Marine Patrol |
| FNG | Florida National Guard |
| FOG | Field Operations Guide |
| FP&L | Florida Power and Light |
| GAR | Governors Authorized Representative |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| GR | General Revenue |
| HAZMAT | Hazardous Materials |
| HCD | Housing and Community Development |
| HES | Hurricane Evacuation Study |
| HLS | Hurricane Local Statement |
| HMEP | Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness |
| HMGP | Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Federal |
| HMO | Hazard Mitigation Officer |
| HSPD-5 | Homeland Security Presidential Directive - 5 |
| HURREVAC | Hurricane Evacuation Tracking Program |
| HVA | Hazard Vulnerability Analysis |
| IA | Individual Assistance or Impact Assessment |
| IAP | Incident Action Plan |
| IC | Incident Commander |
| ICP | Incident Command Post |
| ICS | Incident Command System |
| IMS | Incident Management System |
| IMT | Incident Management Team |
| IPAWS | Integrated Public Alert and Warning System |
| IRS | Internal Revenue Service |
| JCC | Joint Coordination Center – Federal |
| JFO | Joint Field Office |
| JIC | Joint Information Center |
| JIS | Joint Information System |
| JSAC | Joint State Area Command |
| LEPC | Local Emergency Planning Committee |

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|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LMS | Local Mitigation Strategy |
| LO | Liaison Officer |
| LSA | Logistical Staging Area |
| LTR | Long Term Recovery |
| MAA | Mutual Aid Agreement |
| MCI | Mass Casualty Incident |
| MEOW | Maximum Envelope of Wind / Water |
| MIC | Meteorologist In Charge – NWS |
| MOA | Memorandum of Agreement |
| MOM | Maximum of the Maximums |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MRE | Meals Ready-to-Eat |
| MSU | Medical Support Unit |
| NAWAS | National Warning System / National Attack Warning and Alert System |
| NDMS | National Disaster Medical System |
| NFIP | National Flood Insurance Program |
| NGO | Nongovernmental Organization |
| NHC | National Hurricane Center |
| NIMS | National Incident Management System |
| NOAA | National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration |
| NOFA | Notice of Funding Availability |
| NRF | National Response Framework |
| NRT | National Response Team |
| NWS | National Weather Service |
| OSC | On-Scene Commander |
| PA | Public Assistance |
| PAG | Protective Action Guide |
| PAO | Public Assistance Officer |
| PDA | Preliminary Damage Assessment |
| PIO | Public Information Officer |
| PSA | Public Service Announcement |
| PW | Project Worksheet |
| RC | Recovery Centers/Regional Council/Regional Coordinator |
| RCMP | Residential Construction Mitigation Program |
| RDSTF | Regional Domestic Security Task Force |
| RFA | Request For Federal Assistance |
| RFP | Request For Proposal / Request For Payment |
| SA | Salvation Army |

| | |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| SAR | Search and Rescue |
| SBA | Small Business Administration |
| SAME | Specific Area Message Encoder (weather radio) |
| SCO | State Coordinating Officer |
| SEOC | State Emergency Operations Center |
| SERC | State Emergency Response Commission |
| SERT | State Emergency Response Team |
| SFHA | Special Flood Hazard Area |
| SHMPAT | State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team |
| SITREP | Situation Report |
| SLOSH | Sea, Lake and Overland Surges for Hurricanes |
| SMAA | Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement |
| SN | Special Needs |
| SO | Safety Officer |
| SOG | Standard Operating Guidelines |
| SOP | Standard Operating Procedure |
| SOW | Scope of Work |
| STARC | State Area Command |
| SWO | State Watch Office |
| TDD | Telephone Device for the Deaf |
| UASI | Urban Area Security Initiative |
| UC | Unified Command |
| USAR | Urban Search and Rescue |
| VA | Veterans Administration |
| VOAD | Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters |
| WCM | Warning Coordination Meteorologist – NWS |
| WMD | Water Management District / Weapons of Mass Destruction |
| WFO | Weather Forecast Office |

ST. JOHNS COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT PLAN

2021

Basic Plan



ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
Including the City of St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach

BASIC PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

St. Johns County is vulnerable to a variety of hazards that threaten our population, businesses and the environment. The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) establishes the framework, as authorized by Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, to ensure that St. Johns County is prepared for these hazards. The CEMP emphasizes action within the four phases of the Emergency Management cycle: Preparedness, Response, Recovery and Mitigation. The CEMP defines the functional roles and responsibilities of each government entity that partners in St. Johns County's disaster organization and their relationship to each other. In addition, the County's CEMP provides a comprehensive approach to reducing the effects of disasters on its population and physical environment.

The CEMP is divided into five sections: The Basic Plan, Recovery Annex, Mitigation Annex, NIMS/ESF Annex and Appendices. The following describes each section:

- A. The Basic Plan** – outlines the general purpose, scope and methodology of the plan; coordination, control and organizational structure; concept of operations, and identifies responsibilities of all agencies and resources mobilized by the county to assist in recovering from a disaster. The CEMP enables the **St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners to discharge their responsibility for providing direction and control during any significant disaster.**
- B. Annex I – Recovery Functions.** This annex outlines specific tasks or functions that may be carried out before, during and after a disaster and details control, coordination, planning efforts, and policies within St. Johns County designed to facilitate both immediate and long-term recovery after a disaster has occurred. Providing for rapid and orderly start of rehabilitation and restoration of persons and property affected by a disaster anywhere in St. Johns County. Specific tasks may be described in Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) or other operational plans utilized within St. Johns County.
- C. Annex II – Mitigation Functions.** The mitigation annex includes the projects, policies, and programs that reduce the county's vulnerability to the impacts of disasters before they happen. The annex also details requirements and the programs incorporated in post-disaster recovery efforts to prevent recurring losses from future disasters. The St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) gives more detailed Mitigation information and is referred to within this Annex.
- D. Annex III – National Incident Management System (NIMS)/Emergency Support Functions (ESF's).** These annexes detail by name and organization the

lead, support, and coordinating entities and their roles and responsibilities in the four phases of an emergency. Each annex outlines specific tasks or functions that may be carried out before, during and after a disaster and / or emergency event. These tasks utilize the Emergency Support Function (ESF) concept of federal and state plans and is also applied to specific functions within the Incident Command System (ICS). These specific tasks may be described in Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) or other operational plans utilized within St. Johns County by Emergency Management or other response and recovery agencies. Each ESF will respond to the EOC when activated by the County Emergency Management Director.

- E. Annex IV – Appendices.** Appendices are located at the end of the plan and provide additional information and plans associated with the CEMP.

The CEMP is both a planning and an operations-based document that provides guidance for all aspects of emergency management including, disaster preparedness; evacuation and sheltering; warning and notification; public education and information; resource management; mutual aid; Special Needs Program; impact and damage assessment; debris management; training and exercises; and post-disaster recovery programs.

1. Purpose

The CEMP establishes a framework for an effective system of comprehensive emergency management, for the purpose of:

- a) Reducing loss of life, injury, and property damage and loss resulting from natural or human-caused emergencies;
- b) Preparing for prompt and efficient response and recovery activities to protect lives and property impacted by emergencies;
- c) Responding to emergencies with the effective use of all relevant plans and resources deemed appropriate;
- d) Recovering from emergencies by providing for the rapid and systematic implementation of restoration and rehabilitation programs for persons and properties affected by emergencies; and
- e) Assisting in awareness, recognition, education, prevention and mitigation of emergencies that may be caused or aggravated by inadequate planning for, and regulation of, public and private facilities and land use.

2. **Scope**

- a) The CEMP establishes the basic policies, assumptions and strategies for a comprehensive all-hazards countywide emergency management program.
- b) The CEMP prioritizes protection of citizens and responders as a first priority, with the preservation and protection of property being the second priority.
- c) The CEMP is applicable to minor, major or catastrophic disasters. It is flexible and expandable, depending on the emergency situation and needs. Any part or section of the plan may be utilized separately if required by the situation.
- d) The CEMP establishes the procedures to coordinate with Local, Regional, State and Federal emergency management agencies, organizations and programs.
- e) A unified direction and control structure is described. The CEMP identifies staff roles and resource allocation, as well as decision-making criteria. It delineates lines of authority, responsibilities and working relationships of various entities.
- f) The CEMP brings together County and municipal resources in a unified approach to manage the disaster. In addition, it identifies a cooperative process for coordination of private sector and volunteer resources.
- g) The CEMP addresses management and prioritization of local resources and establishes the procedure to request immediate assistance for resources, if needed. State and / or Federal resources will be requested and drawn from when local resources have been exhausted.
- h) The CEMP provides a format for the shift of focus of the EOC from Response to Recovery and Mitigation. Long-range recovery and mitigation is addressed by the ability of the EOC to continue operations in a modified form, after the response phase has been terminated.
- i) The CEMP establishes an effective format for emergency management by:
 - a. Identifying the types of hazards that may occur within the County;
 - b. Determining the County's vulnerability to various types of

disasters, and identifying the most threatening so that appropriate preparedness, mitigation and planning steps can be taken.

- c. Addressing each phase of the emergency management cycle:
 - i. Preparedness: Utilizes lessons learned from previous disasters, locally and elsewhere, to determine what is likely to occur during any particular type and intensity of disaster. Likely community needs can be identified and prioritized. Adequate planning pre-determines the best utilization of resources in responding to needs. Identification and training of personnel for roles and responsibilities during the disaster is included in this phase. It includes partnering with the private sector, residents and volunteer organizations to assist them in pre-disaster education and planning activities to lessen the impact of disasters.
 - ii. Response: The implementation of the CEMP. Government responds to emergencies by activating its plan, incrementally increasing response as needed, giving direction and control to the emergency management effort, and looking ahead to recovery. Individuals respond by implementing their own disaster plans, whether it means evacuating the area or remaining in place. Private businesses and volunteer organizations implement their plans to secure and protect their assets, and if possible, make resources available to help the community.
 - iii. Recovery: Begins as soon as possible, sometimes during the response phase. The emergency management organization initiates procedures to assess needs and resources, establish priorities, review state and federal aid criteria and coordinate with representatives from all levels of government. Once the extent of the recovery effort is determined, the appointed recovery team members determine how best to manage the specific activities, what resources and personnel will be required and what other actions are needed to return the impacted areas to normal operations as quickly as possible. Assessment of both short and long-term mitigation measures takes place during this phase and the “after action” evaluation process is conducted.
 - iv. Mitigation: This phase involves identifying preventative and / or corrective measures and actions to prevent or limit bodily injury, loss of life or property damage from disasters. It includes policy issues as well as structural projects within

government and the private sector. A separate Local Mitigation Strategy serves as the guidance document for both pre-disaster mitigation planning and post-disaster recovery.

3. Methodology

a) The CEMP is a dynamic document that adapts to changes in policy, priorities and needs. State and Federal statutes, regulations, and priorities guide development of the document. Public and private entities participating in the development of this plan include, but are not limited to:

Florida Department of Health – St. Johns
St. Johns County Agricultural Extension Agency
St. Johns County Animal Control
St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners
St. Johns County Clerk of Court
St. Johns County Code Enforcement and Zoning Department
St. Johns County Emergency Management
St. Johns County Fire / Rescue
St. Johns County Growth Management Services
St. Johns County Libraries
St. Johns County Public Works
St. Johns County School District
St. Johns County Sheriff's Office
St. Johns County Solid Waste Department
St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections
St. Johns County Tax Collectors Office
St. Johns County Utility Department
St. Johns County Veteran's Service Office

Other governmental entities furnishing input and information include:

City of St. Augustine
City of St. Augustine Beach
Florida Division of Emergency Management
Florida Forest Service
National Weather Service
Northeast Florida Regional Council
St. Johns River Water Management District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Private Sector and volunteer organizations, which participated in creating this plan, include:

Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)
Flagler Hospital

Numerous local churches
Northeast Florida Regional Airport
Salvation Army
St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce
St. Johns County Council on Aging
St Johns County Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)

- b) Local planning involvement includes:
- a. A promulgation letter from the County Administrator displayed at the front of this document.
 - b. Signed concurrence from partner agencies acknowledging and accepting plan responsibilities displayed at the front of this document.
 - c. A distribution list of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, displayed at the front of this document.
 - d. The Emergency Management Director (EMD) is responsible for ensuring that all changes have been distributed to recipients of the CEMP. The distribution list, displayed at the front of this document is used to verify that all appropriate persons / offices are copied.
 - e. A Record of Changes Log, displayed at the front of this document is used to record all published changes as those holding copies of the CEMP receive them. The holder of the copy is responsible for making the appropriate changes and updating the Log.
 - f. A master copy of the CEMP, with a master Record of Changes Log, is maintained / kept on file by the Division of Emergency Management. A comparison of the master copy with any other will allow a determination to be made as to whether or not the copy in question has been posted to it with all appropriate changes.

II. SITUATION

This section of the CEMP describes the potential hazard considerations, geographic characteristics, support facilities, land use patterns, economic profiles and demographics of St. Johns County. It also describes specific planning assumptions regarding preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation that were taken into consideration during the development of this plan. Information is also available in the Disasters and Hazards Expected Appendices.

A. Hazards Analysis

This section details the human-caused and natural hazards to which St. Johns County is vulnerable. The first 7 hazards are analyzed in detail and

can also be found in the Local Mitigation Strategy as each of these hazards has the greatest potential to affect St. Johns County and its citizens. Each additional hazard beginning at number 8 is not included in the Local Mitigation Strategy but is incorporated in the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in an effort to include every potential hazard no matter the probability of future occurrence. Additional hazard analysis, including an explanation of how each hazard’s vulnerability, probability of future occurrence, and risk is calculated, and more detailed information can be found in the St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy.¹

1. Hurricane/ Tropical Storm

Vulnerability: High
 Probability of Future Occurrence: High
 Risk: High

Hurricanes have the greatest potential for causing disaster than any other single natural threat to St. Johns County. The effects of an impacting hurricane will depend upon the strength, direction and, location of impact of the storm. Hurricanes are categorized on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale from one through five depicted in the graph below. Categories one and two storms are considered “minor” hurricanes, although they can cause significant damage and potential loss of life. Categories 3, 4 and 5 hurricanes are “major” hurricanes and can cause massive destruction and loss of life.

TABLE 1: SAFFIR / SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE

| Category | Sustained Winds | Types of Damage Due to Hurricane Winds |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 74-95 mph 64-82 kt 119-153 km/h | Very dangerous winds will produce some damage: Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few to several days. |
| 2 | 96-110 mph 83-95 kt 154-177 km/h | Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage: Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks. |
| 3 (major) | 111-129 mph 96-112 kt 178-208 km/h | Devastating damage will occur: Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes. |
| 4 (major) | 130-156 mph 113-136 kt 209-251 km/h | Catastrophic damage will occur: Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles |

¹ The St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy is a separate reference and planning document that can be found on file at the St. Johns County Division of Emergency Management.

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months. |
| 5 (major) | 157 mph or higher 137 kt or higher 252 km/h or higher | Catastrophic damage will occur: A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks to months. |

SOURCE: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The four major hazards produced by a hurricane are the storm surge, high winds, tornadoes and rainfall. The storm surge is the abnormal rise in ocean water levels caused by the wind and pressure forces of a hurricane or tropical storm. Storm surge produces most of the flood damage and drowning associated with storms that make landfall or that closely approach the coastline. Of the hurricane hazards, the storm surge is considered to be the most dangerous as ninety percent of hurricane-related deaths have been caused by drowning.

St. Johns County is a coastal county with 3 areas of water to account for when discussing storm surge. The county may encounter storm surge along the ocean, intra-coastal waterways and St. Johns River during hurricanes. Also, the St. Johns River functions less as a river and more like a tidally influenced lagoon along its lower portions from Palatka to Jacksonville which make up the western boundary of the county. This portion of the river is shallow and strongly influenced by tides from the Atlantic Ocean up to 50 miles downstream. As a result, within St. Johns County, areas adjacent to the St. Johns River and its tributaries are subject to storm surge. Areas of particular vulnerability include the entire shoreline of the St. Johns River, the southern portions of Julington Creek, shorelines adjacent to Cunningham Creek, Six Mile Creek and Deep Creek, which leads into and may cause the area of Hastings to flood.

A review of records from the National Weather Service between 1985 and 2020 shows that St. Johns County and Northeast Florida have had brushes with hurricanes but no direct landfalls during this time. The last hurricane to make landfall in Northeast Florida was Hurricane Dora in 1964, which came ashore in northern St. Johns County. Since the last CEMP update Hurricanes Matthew, Irma and Dorian have impacted St. Johns County (full Storm Summaries can be obtained from the Emergency Management Department). Hurricane Matthew approached the east coast of Florida late Thursday, October 6, 2016, and weakened into a Category 3 hurricane by 1:00 am on October 7th. At the time, it was located approximately 140 miles southeast of St. Augustine. Impacts were felt throughout St. Johns County all that day. Hurricane Matthew made its closest approach to St. Johns County when the center of the eye was just 31 statute miles from Summer Haven at 2:00 pm October 7, then began drifting east.

St. Johns County was still in the early recovery phase from Hurricane Matthew when Hurricane Irma repeated, and expanded, local impacts. 11 months after Hurricane Matthew, Hurricane Irma began to affect the State long before making its first Florida landfall in the Keys. Irma would continue to affect Florida for over 60 hours, and would eventually affect the entire State of Florida simultaneously. Hurricane Irma impacted St. Johns County grazing the coastline, causing extensive beach erosion, local flooding, and wind damage, delivering Tropical Storm Force winds to St. Johns County for nearly 30 hours.

Dorian was a long-track hurricane that began as a tropical wave off the coast of Africa. Hurricane Dorian traveled through portions of the Caribbean emerging north of the Virgin Islands on a track forecast to bring the storm ashore on the Florida East Coast. On September 3, 2019 Hurricane Dorian threatened St. Johns County. The Hurricane Dorian forecast fortunately shifted to a more easterly path and impacts to St. Johns County were decreased. Strong Tropical Storm force winds were forecast to impact the county, with a continued threat of hurricane force winds. In the end, Tropical Storm Force winds passed 10 miles off the St. Johns County coast, as the hurricane winds passed 90 miles east of the coast on September 4th.

The following storms approached the closest to Northeast Florida and St. Johns County in the past twenty five years:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Tropical Storm Josephine | October 1996 |
| Tropical Depression Georges | September/October 1998 |
| Hurricane Floyd..... | September 1999 |
| Tropical Storm Gabrielle..... | September 2001 |
| Hurricane Charley..... | August 2004 |
| Hurricane Frances..... | September 2004 |
| Hurricane Jeanne..... | September 2004 |
| Tropical Storm Ophelia..... | September 2005 |
| Tropical Storm Alberto..... | June 2006 |
| Tropical Storm Ernesto..... | August 2006 |
| Tropical Storm Fay..... | August 2008 |
| Tropical Storm Beryl..... | May 2012 |
| Tropical Storm Debby..... | June 2012 |
| Tropical Storm Erika..... | August 2015 |
| Hurricane Hermine..... | August 2016 |
| Hurricane Matthew..... | October 2016 |
| Hurricane Irma..... | September 2017 |
| Hurricane Dorian..... | September 2019 |

a) Storm Surge

Complete details regarding the storm surge threat are available from the SLOSH (Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes) model currently in use by the National Weather Service and National Hurricane Center. The SLOSH model has a long proven record and will be used in this analysis for storm surge vulnerability levels. The Northeast Florida Regional Council updated the Storm Surge Atlas for St. Johns County utilizing the SLOSH data in 2014. Storm surge will have the greatest impact to structures and infrastructure located in storm surge zones (a map of the storm surge zones can be found in Appendix P). Storm surge can completely wash structures off their foundations or undermine foundations to the point of structural collapse. Residents living in these structures will face dire consequences if they fail to follow an evacuation order and stay in these structures. Storm surge may also cause extensive erosion of beaches and dunes. The results can be catastrophic failure of structures and infrastructure in surge areas. The last known occurrence of storm surge in St. Johns County was in 2017 when Hurricane Irma came through St. Johns County.

b) High Winds

If a hurricane were to occur in the County there are certain areas where winds would be higher due to topography (higher elevations), proximity to the ocean, and/or land use patterns such as large clear-cut within the forest.

The following areas appear to be the most susceptible to high winds from a hurricane:

- All shorelines
- Areas adjacent to the Intracoastal Waterway;
- Areas adjacent to the St. Johns River

It should also be noted that as a coastal county, all of St. Johns County is susceptible to high winds, but the areas noted may suffer greater impacts due to their location. The high winds also can be devastating to persons outside, in motor vehicles, in mobile homes or substandard structures, or in structures with unprotected exposures. A 140-mile per hour wind can produce as much as 60 pounds of pressure per square foot. With this kind of pressure, a structure, once compromised during a windstorm, will experience increasing internal pressure to the roof and walls. This could cause the roof to blow off the structure, the structure to completely fail, or the inside to be devastated by a wind tunnel effect.

2. Severe Weather

Vulnerability: Low

Probability of Future Occurrence: High

Risk: Medium

Forces associated with weather-generated events are grouped under Severe Weather. While each force has specific characteristics and effects, they often occur in conjunction with one another, thereby increasing and intensifying the effects. There has been damage in St. Johns County from tornadoes and storm wind events. Most strikes occur in the summer although lightning storms have occurred in other months with advancing cold fronts. The primary hazards included under this category are: **lightning, heavy rains, hail, damaging winds, and tornadoes**

a) Severe Thunderstorms and Lightning

A severe thunderstorm is defined as a thunderstorm containing one or more of the following phenomena: hail 1" or greater, winds gusting in excess of 57.5 mph, and/or a tornado. Severe weather can include lightning, tornadoes, damaging straight-line winds, and large hail. Most individual thunderstorms only last several minutes, however some can last several hours.

Long-lived thunderstorms are called supercell thunderstorms. A supercell is a thunderstorm that has a persistent rotating updraft. This rotation maintains the energy release of the thunderstorm over a much longer time than typical, pulse-type thunderstorms, which occur in the summer months. Supercell thunderstorms are responsible for producing the majority of severe weather, such as large hail and tornadoes (NOAA).

Downbursts are also occasionally associated with severe thunderstorms. A downburst is a strong downdraft resulting in an outward burst of damaging winds on or near the ground. Downburst winds can produce damage similar to a strong tornado. Although usually associated with thunderstorms, downbursts can even occur with showers too weak to produce thunder (NOAA). Strong squall lines can also produce widespread severe weather, primarily very strong winds and/or microbursts.

When a severe thunderstorm approaches, the NWS may issue alerts. Two possible alerts are:

- Severe Thunderstorm Watch - Conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms

- Severe Thunderstorm Warning - Severe weather is imminent or occurring in the area

Thunderstorms are common in St. Johns County, and area residents are quite familiar with them and the severe weather they can bring. During the time period of 2016 – 2020, St. Johns County experienced 32 thunderstorm events with winds gust over 35 knots. The highest recorded wind gust of 55 knots occurred in the Sampson Church / World golf Village Area in May 2016. This event caused 6-8 inch tree limbs to be blown down and damaged a portion of a wood fence. Wind gusts were estimated between 50-60 mph; the dollar figure for the damage is unknown. There was one recorded injury from a thunderstorm wind event which occurred in April 2019 in the Fruit Cove Area in which a tree was blown down onto a vehicle which caused a minor injury. Total property damage for all combined 32 events was estimated at \$68, 600 and there was no crop damage reported from thunderstorms.

Perhaps the most dangerous and costly effect of thunderstorms is lightning. As a thunderstorm grows, electrical charges build up within the cloud. Oppositely charged particles gather at the ground below. The attraction between positive and negative charges quickly grows strong enough to overcome the air's resistance to electrical flow. Racing toward each other, they connect and complete the electrical circuit. Charges from the ground then surge upward at nearly one-third the speed of light and produce a bright flash of lightning (Cappella, 1997).

On average, more people are killed by lightning than any other weather event. Florida leads in the nation in lightning related deaths and injuries (National Lightning Safety Institute). Florida also has the most strikes, about 12 strikes per square kilometer per year in some places (National Lightning Safety Institute). As many as 1000 cloud-to-ground lightning strikes could occur within a 60-minute severe thunderstorm in St. Johns County. The peak months for lightning strikes are June, July, and August, but no month is safe from lightning danger.

During the time period of January 2016 – November 2019, St. Johns County experienced 10 lightning events as defined by the NWS. There was one recorded injury and no fatalities from lightning strikes during this time period. The following information describes the impacts from lightning in the identified timeframe. A citizen was standing on a balcony in a residential section between Butler Beach and Crescent Beach and was struck by lightning. The victim was in critical condition at the hospital. Total property damage for all 10

events was estimated at \$277,100. There was no recorded crop damage. All areas of St. Johns County are equally susceptible to thunderstorms and lightning.

b) Tornadoes

Although tornadoes in Florida are generally not as large and powerful as they are in the Midwest within the area known as “Tornado Alley”, they do occur and have caused significant damage. According to the Storm Prediction Center during the period between 2016 and 2019, Florida had a total of 174 reported tornadoes, an average of 58 per year. This ranks Florida third among the States in the number of tornados, behind Texas and Kansas. Further, tornadoes can be spawned by hurricanes and can cause major damage and loss of life. Tornados are most prevalent in central Florida and portions of the panhandle.

On February 1, 2007 NOAA began using the Enhanced Fujita Scale. The Enhanced F-scale still is a set of wind estimates (not measurements) based on damage. Its uses three-second gusts estimated at the point of damage based on a judgment of 8 levels of damage to the 28 indicators listed below. These estimates vary with height and exposure. The Enhanced Fujita Scale for Tornadoes is included below for reference.

A review of records from the Storm Prediction Center shows that between 2016 and 2019 St. Johns County had 7 recorded tornadoes. On February 2, 2017 two homes in the Heritage Landing neighborhood had significant wind damage to both their roofs and the interior of the home. Peak winds were around 100 mph. Three tornadoes were spawned as a result of Hurricane Irma in September of 2017. One tornado passed the northern side of Castillo de San Marcos and uprooted 2 trees before strengthening to EF1 and moving toward Huguenot Cemetery. Multiple trees were uprooted and snapped in the cemetery. The tornado continued moving west in the vicinity of Orange Street before dissipating just before reaching Highway 1. This tornado likely began as a water spout offshore. The second tornado may have initiated as a water spout that moved onshore at Vilano Beach. Minimal damage was reported in Vilano Beach with greater tree damage discovered west of Vilano Beach where a few trees were snapped and uprooted. Roof damage was reported on 5th Avenue near Vilano Beach. Multiple trees were damage and there was minor roof damage observed along Jackson and North Blvd. The tornado then crossed Highway 1 and caused additional tree and roof damage from 4th Street toward Porter Road before dissipating in the 12 Mile Swamp Conservation Area. Radar

indicated a tornado debris signature. This tornado had peak winds of 85-100 mph. The third caused significant structural damage at Summer House vacation rentals in Crescent Beach. There were definitive signs of circulation in the debris field. Tree damage extended inland to A1A. The tornado appeared to dissipate over the Intracoastal Waterway. Peak winds were estimated at 110-130 mph.

There have been two F3 tornados recorded in St. Johns County, these storms occurred in 1958 and 1971; property damage estimates for these two storms is \$250,000 per event. Based on this historical evidence, the worst case scenario for St. Johns County would be an F3 Tornado based on the original Fujita Scale, cost estimates would vary greatly as it would be dependent on the location of the tornado, housing development vs. farm land, as thus a cost estimate cannot be calculated. All areas of St. Johns County are equally susceptible to tornadoes.

ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE FOR TORNADOES

| Fujita Scale | | | Derived Enhanced Fujita Scale | | Operational EF Scale | |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| F Number | Fastest ¼ mile (mph) | 3 Second Gust (mph) | EF Number | 3 Second Gust (mph) | EF Number | 3 Second Gust (mph) |
| 0 | 40 - 72 | 45 - 78 | 0 | 65 - 85 | 0 | 65 - 85 |
| 1 | 73 – 112 | 79 – 117 | 1 | 86 - 109 | 1 | 86 – 110 |
| 2 | 113 – 157 | 118 – 161 | 2 | 110 – 137 | 2 | 111 – 135 |
| 3 | 158 – 207 | 162 – 209 | 3 | 138 – 167 | 3 | 136 – 165 |
| 4 | 208 – 260 | 210 – 261 | 4 | 168 – 199 | 4 | 166 – 200 |
| 5 | 261 - 318 | 262 - 317 | 5 | 200 – 234 | 5 | Over 200 |

SOURCE: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE DAMAGE INDICATORS

| Number | Damage Indicator | Abbreviation |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Small barns, farm outbuildings | SBO |
| 2 | One- or two-family residences | FR12 |
| 3 | Single-wide mobile home (MHSW) | MHSW |
| 4 | Double-wide mobile home | MHDW |
| 5 | Apt, condo, townhouse (3 stories or less) | ACT |
| 6 | Motel | M |
| 7 | Masonry apt. or motel | MAM |
| 8 | Small retail bldg. (fast food) | SRB |
| 9 | Small professional (doctor office, branch bank) | SPB |
| 10 | Strip mall | SM |
| 11 | Large shopping mall | LSM |
| 12 | Large, isolated ("big box") retail bldg. | LIRB |
| 13 | Automobile showroom | ASR |
| 14 | Automotive service building | ASB |
| 15 | School - 1-story elementary (interior or exterior halls) | ES |
| 16 | School - junior or senior high school | JHSH |
| 17 | Low-rise (1-4 story) bldg. | LRB |
| 18 | Mid-rise (5-20 story) bldg. | MRB |
| 19 | High-rise (over 20 stories) | HRB |
| 20 | Institutional bldg. (hospital, govt. or university) | IB |
| 21 | Metal building system | MBS |
| 22 | Service station canopy | SSC |
| 23 | Warehouse (tilt-up walls or heavy timber) | WHB |
| 24 | Transmission line tower | TLT |
| 25 | Free-standing tower | FST |
| 26 | Free standing pole (light, flag, luminary) | FSP |
| 27 | Tree - hardwood | TH |
| 28 | Tree - softwood | TS |

SOURCE: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

3. **Flooding**

Vulnerability: Medium

Probability of Future Occurrence: High

Risk: Medium

Freshwater flooding is generally associated with small natural streams or other drainage systems that are overwhelmed by large amounts of runoff generated by short episodes of extremely heavy rainfall. Coastal flooding can be associated with storms surge, abnormally high tides or nor'easter events. Flooding of evacuation routes just prior to evacuation orders or during the latter evacuations can trap evacuees. Detailed below are some of the roads and areas of concern within the county.

Freshwater Flooding occurs in several areas in St. Johns County. The two largest areas of note are the downtown area in the city of St. Augustine and Flagler Estates with roads frequently flooded after rains. Other areas of the County that have experienced significant flooding are the neighborhood surrounding the St. Augustine Amphitheater, neighborhood to the west of Surfside Beach Park, and West Augustine.

Notable roadways include, but are not limited to:

- Sections of Ponte Vedra Blvd.
- Several sections of Roscoe Road which runs along the Intracoastal Waterway
- Greenbriar Road east of Roberts Road
- International Golf Parkway just west of the World Golf Village and a large section just west of US-1
- Portions of US-1
- A1A Coastal Highway

Coastal flooding may inundate potential evacuation routes and prevent persons in vulnerable areas from evacuating late. Flooded roads can also contribute to fatal accidents. Freshwater flooding as well as coastal flooding is modeled by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Vulnerability to flooding is documented in the Flood Insurance Rate Maps delineating the 100-year flood (A and VE Zones) and the 500 year flood (X Zones). The FEMA Flood Zone Map for St. Johns County is included in Appendix P. For specific water depths in flooding events you can refer to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. This collection of maps is far too extensive to be included within this document and can be supplied upon request.

The highest flood waters on record for St. Johns County occurred in Flagler Estates on September 14th – 15th, 2001 as a result of Tropical Storm Gabrielle. The water reached a depth of 3 feet on Flagler Estates Boulevard and surrounding areas. If conditions were right this extent of flooding, or possibly more, could be experienced in the future. National Weather Service records indicate that flooding events occurring since the last CEMP update include 2012, 2013 and several in 2015. Flooding in 2012 was from a stalled frontal boundary that caused scattered showers to linger in the area, standing water was noted in the downtown St. Augustine area, with an estimated \$1000 in damage. In May 2013 heavy rainfall created flooding and deep hail drifts of penny size hail caused extensive damage to cropland near Elkton, with severe financial impact to farmers in the area. Crop damage was estimated around 38 million dollars. In 2015 there were 4 instances of flooding, all occurring in downtown St. Augustine. Roads were flooded with some cars stranded. No monetary damages were reported.

a) Floodplains

The FEMA Flood Zone Map for St. Johns County, included in Appendix P identifies those areas of St. Johns County that are within the A and VE Zones (100 year) and X-shaded Zone (500 year) floodplain as delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These are areas that could experience flooding associated with heavy rainfall events which cause localized flooding from overflowing streams or ponds in low lying areas. In St. Johns County floodplains are associated with the St. Johns River and Intracoastal Waterway and their tributaries. Flooding within these areas accounts for the principle flooding problems within the County. The largest portion of the county vulnerable to freshwater flooding is the area east of US 1 and areas along the St. Johns River. These are also the areas with the highest population concentrations within the County.

As a result, a significant portion of the County's population is vulnerable to the effects of a 100 year flooding event. This could mean either that the dwelling units are directly impacted by being flooded, or that the property or accesses to the property are flooded resulting in health and safety hazards. Based on analysis completed for the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study in 2014, approximately 78,400 of the County's 200,000 residents, or 39% of the population, are vulnerable to freshwater flooding in the 100 year floodplain.

b) Coastal Flooding

Coastal flooding is a term that refers to weather events that have the possibility of flooding the immediate coastline or even further inland. NOAA describes several factors that contribute to coastal flooding:

- Local severe weather events, such as tropical cyclones or extra-tropical storms, create meteorological conditions that drive up the water level, creating a storm surge.
- Large waves, driven by local winds or swells from distant severe weather, can raise average coastal water levels and cause large and damaging waves to reach land.
- High tide levels caused by normal variations in the astronomical tide cycle.
- The combination of storm surge and heavy rain events, whether locally or in the upland watershed.

- Other larger scale regional and ocean scale variations, caused by seasonal heating and cooling and ocean dynamics, can contribute to high water levels.

Coastal flooding can be extremely dangerous, and any factor alone or in combination with another can cause severe damage. Coastal flooding has the potential to destroy structures and infrastructure, as well as having strong environmental effects and can have major impacts on the local economy. Though coastal flooding in St. Johns County is often the result of storm surge, there are instances of abnormally high astronomical tides with onshore winds and weather systems such as nor'easters that have produced coastal floods.

Areas subject to coastal flooding include those along the Atlantic coast that are in the Coastal High Hazard Area- also known as the area of special flood hazard - that extends from offshore to the inland limit of a primary frontal dune along an open coast and any other area subject to high velocity wave action from storms or seismic sources. The coastal high hazard area is identified as Zone VE on FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).

The location of coastal flooding is similar to that of storm surge; however, due to the nature of the events that cause coastal flooding, it is not expected to extend as far inland as storm surge. All coastal areas in St. Johns County are susceptible to coastal flooding with notable areas including South Ponte Vedra and Vilano Beach.

4. Wildfires

Vulnerability: Medium. High during drought conditions
Probability of Future Occurrence: High
Risk: Medium/High

St. Johns County is subjected to some form of wildfire each year. In recent history 1998 - 1999, 2004, 2007, and 2011 the fires have been larger and have threatened urbanized areas more frequently. St. Johns County is transforming from a rural county, to one which is much more urban in nature, but a large percentage of its land area is still covered in forest. As a result many areas of the County are susceptible to wildfire. The most vulnerable areas are those generally located at the urban/wildland interface, primarily located in the western portions of the County. These are areas where subdivisions occur adjacent to large undeveloped areas of forestland. Much of this land is in large ownerships including lands owned by large timber companies and which is actively managed for silviculture. When subdivisions are developed without clearing the wooded areas surrounding them the interface becomes extremely hazardous. Florida has

a history of naturally occurring wildfires. The hot, wet summers following long periods of uninterrupted growth cause the buildup of underbrush, which is prime fuel for wildfires. Large amounts of dry underbrush require only an ignition source; this can be from a home fireplace, trash burn, carelessly tossed away cigarette, or a natural source such as lightning. Once ignited, the underbrush can burn thousands of acres. Housing developments adjacent to areas with large amounts of underbrush are vulnerable to the fires.

The Keetch-Byram drought index was designed specifically for fire potential assessment. It is a number representing the net effect of evapotranspiration and precipitation in producing cumulative moisture deficiency in deep duff and upper soil layers. It is a continuous index, relating to the flammability of organic material in the ground.

- KBDI = 0 - 200: Soil moisture and large class fuel moistures are high and do not contribute much to fire intensity. Typical of spring dormant season following winter precipitation.
- KBDI = 200 - 400: Typical of late spring, early growing season. Lower litter and duff layers are drying and beginning to contribute to fire intensity.
- KBDI = 400 - 600: Typical of late summer, early fall. Lower litter and duff layers actively contribute to fire intensity and will burn actively.
- KBDI = 600 - 800: Often associated with more severe drought with increased wildfire occurrence. Intense, deep burning fires with significant downwind spotting can be expected. Live fuels can also be expected to burn actively at these levels.

In 1998 St. Johns County experienced its most severe outbreak of wildfire. Approximately 12,842 acres burned. No homes were lost and one injury was reported. The cost to St. Johns County was \$476,420; this does not include the cost for the timber that was lost during the fires. Other significant wildfire events (>100 acres) have been recorded in St. Johns County in 1985, 1990, 1993, 1998 - 1999, 2004, 2007, and 2011. Wildfires in 2011 burned several hundred acres of timber and came dangerously close to the St. Johns County Animal Control Facility and Pet Center, ultimately no structures were burned. An additional wildfire in 2011 burned over a thousand acres and caused closures of Interstate 95 and US Highway 1 for approximately 12 hours. Some timber was lost but no structures were burned. This was the last occurrence of a major wildfire in the County. These wildfire events correlated with dry periods and the Florida dry season which is typically January through May, with some very active fire events occurring in May.

A land use and land cover map of St. Johns County is included in Appendix P. This illustrates the areas of the County dominated by large tracts of land

still covered primarily with forests; these areas represent the primary places wildfire will occur. The wildland urban interface indicates the area's most vulnerable to wildfires.

The following table illustrates the primary causes of forest fires in St. Johns County between 2016 and 2020.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY FIRE STATISTICS 2016 – 2020

| Cause | Total Fires | Percent of Total Fires | Acres Burned |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Campfire | 12 | 8.16 | 7.7 |
| Children | 9 | 6.12 | 6.1 |
| Debris Burn* | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Debris Burn--Auth--Broadcast/Acreage | 3 | 2.04 | 176 |
| Debris Burn--Auth--Piles | 2 | 1.36 | 1 |
| Debris Burn--Auth--Yard Trash | 2 | 1.36 | 3 |
| Debris Burn--Nonauth--Broadcast/Acreage | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Debris Burn--Nonauth--Piles | 2 | 1.36 | 0.6 |
| Debris Burn--Nonauth--Yard Trash | 7 | 4.76 | 24.9 |
| Equipment use* | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Equipment--Agriculture | 2 | 1.36 | 1.1 |
| Equipment--Logging | 1 | 0.68 | 0.1 |
| Equipment--Recreation | 1 | 0.68 | 130 |
| Equipment--Transportation | 4 | 2.72 | 7.5 |
| Incendiary | 16 | 10.88 | 188.2 |
| Lightning | 50 | 34.01 | 219.7 |
| Miscellaneous --Breakout | 1 | 0.68 | 265 |
| Miscellaneous --Electric Fence | 1 | 0.68 | 0.6 |
| Miscellaneous --Fireworks | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Miscellaneous --Power Lines | 3 | 2.04 | 1.2 |
| Miscellaneous --Structure | 2 | 1.36 | 0.2 |
| Miscellaneous--Other | 1 | 0.68 | 0.5 |
| Railroad | 2 | 1.36 | 1.1 |
| Smoking | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unknown | 26 | 17.69 | 54.7 |
| Total | 147 | | 1,089.2 |

SOURCE: Florida Forest Service

5. Human Caused Hazards

a) Hazardous Materials

Vulnerability: Medium

Probability of Future Occurrence: Medium

Risk: Medium

Hazardous materials are used to maintain the modern lifestyles of both urban and rural communities; in fact, as many as 50,000 new chemicals are created annually. Agricultural uses for chemicals range from fertilizers, insecticides and disease control for crops to ammonia refrigeration units for dairy products. These chemicals increase crop yields and ensure the delivery of fresh products to markets. Similarly in urbanized areas of northeast Florida communities often use extremely hazardous chemicals, such as chlorine or sulfuric acid for treating drinking and waste water. Safe drinking water and reduced levels of pollution in surface waters are the result. Industrial chemicals such as potassium cyanide (used in manufacturing medicines) and fluorine (used in rocket fuels) are essential to maintain modern lifestyles in the northeast Florida area. New industrial chemicals improve product durability and create alternatives to high cost organic products, making products affordable to a wider range within the general population. However, these conveniences have increased vulnerability of the general population to exposure from an accidental release of hazardous materials.

Each year the number of registered facilities using hazardous materials in Northeast Florida increases. Supplying these facilities requires routinely transporting hazardous materials into the County by rail, truck, air and/or, barge. The County is rapidly urbanizing; developing around the economic centers of St. Augustine, Nocatee, Ponte Vedra, and the World Golf Village. As the population and number of facilities that handle hazardous materials grow, greater numbers of people are vulnerable to an accidental release. This would include vulnerability from a release of hazardous materials during or following a major natural or human-caused disaster. A railway, interstate and US highway all traverse the entire length of St. Johns County. Rail cars and Semi-trucks carrying hazardous materials pass through the County each day increasing the chances for a hazardous materials incident.

As part of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, facilities subject to the 1986 Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act are identified and the following information is obtained:

- The types of chemicals
- The type and design of the container
- Quantity of materials
- The nature of the hazard (vapors, mists, fire explosion etc.)

In addition a Vulnerability Analysis was completed and includes the following information:

- A vulnerability zone (radius) around the facility that could be affected by a release.
- Population within this zone.
- Property in the zone subject to damage.
- Potential environmental impacts within the zone.

And finally a Risk Analysis is completed which includes the following information:

- Probability of occurrence
- Estimates of injuries and deaths
- Impacts to critical facilities
- Impacts to property
- Impacts to environment

As of this writing St. Johns County has never experienced a large scale hazardous materials release, but one release of note happened August 2011. As fuel was being delivered to a gas station, vapors ignited as the fuel spilled and caused several explosions and a large fire. Foam was used to extinguish the fire but a great deal of fuel leaked into the surrounding tidal salt water marsh. There was one injury and the gas station was a total loss. Dollar figures for damage estimates are not available for this incident.

St. Johns County is also susceptible to non-commercial hazardous materials. Much of the County is residential or agricultural. Many of these properties have sheds, barns and storage buildings, which may contain a mixed group of chemicals including paints, insecticides, fertilizers, petroleum products, lubricants and other common household or agricultural products. While it can be assumed few people store and dispose of these items in full compliance with the law, many of these materials are in such small quantity the concern of a full "hazmat" incident is minimized.

St. Johns County Fire Rescue maintains a Hazardous Materials Team which responds to hazardous materials incidents that occur regularly.

b) Terrorism

Vulnerability: Low

Probability of Future Occurrence: Low

Risk: Low

Terrorism incidents can come in many forms including cyber-terrorism, biological weapons, chemical weapons, nuclear weapons, explosive weapons, and incendiary weapons. Biological, nuclear, incendiary, chemical, and explosive materials (B-NICE) are considered hazardous by nature. All counties in Florida are vulnerable to a terrorist attack, whether physical destruction from bombs or contamination from chemical, biological weapons, or radiological materials. There is also the risk of cyber-terrorism attacks that could disrupt or destroy vital computer networks. The county and local emergency service departments will be the first to respond to an actual or suspected terrorist attack. There are several potential targets that are most vulnerable to a terrorist attack in St. Johns County as identified in the Terrorism Annex:

- Northrup Grumman
- Flagler Hospital
- Florida National Guard Headquarters
- Florida National Guard Armory
- Schools
- Special Events (ex. The Players Championship, etc.)
- County and City Government Complex
- Facilities and sites of historical significance

A Terrorism Response Annex has been created as an appendix to the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) to provide St. Johns County with a continuing assessment of the community's vulnerability, and capability to respond to a terrorism incident. The annex provides an assessment of the County's critical facilities and vulnerable populations, specialized response capabilities of emergency response personnel, definitions of operational aspects used in response management, and federal, state, and local command structure roles and responsibilities. The Terrorism Annex also provides information on each type of weapon of mass destruction that may be used in a terrorist attack. St. Johns County created a map that identifies the location of the facilities that have been deemed "Critical Facilities". It is available upon request.

The following are descriptions of each type of potential hazardous threat by terrorist acts:

- Biological weapons - microorganisms and/or toxins from living organisms that have infectious or non-infectious properties that produce lethal or serious effects in plants and animals, including small pox, anthrax, Ebola, and bubonic plague.

- Nuclear weapons - high-energy particles or gamma rays that are emitted by an atom that represent a hazard to humans both internally and externally.
- Incendiary weapons - intentional arson or explosions used to spread fire or chemical and biological weapons.
- Chemical weapons - gas, liquid, or aerosol agents used to affect the transmission of nerve impulses in the human nervous system, including blister/mustard agents, choking agents and blood agents.
- Explosive weapons; used to damage property and cause loss of human life by resulting secondary hazards such as unstable structures, debris and fire.
- Cyber weapon - computer viruses and software that can be used to penetrate and disrupt networks.

St. Johns County has never experienced an act of terrorism.

6. **Drought and Heat Wave**

Vulnerability: Low

Probability of Future Occurrence: Low/Medium

Risk: Low

Drought is a normal climatic occurrence that happens almost everywhere on the planet, although its characteristics vary throughout different regions. Drought is recognized as a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time, which could be an entire season or more. Drought not only has its physical effects on the environment, but also has social effects as well, and can often be exacerbated by human demand on water supply. There are different perspectives on drought, which include those from meteorological, agricultural, societal, and hydrologic perspectives. Periods of drought can affect crops, water supply, and can lead to increased hazard of wildfires. All of St. Johns County is susceptible to drought conditions and the hazards associated with them.

The Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) is an index of the relative dryness or wetness of an area. The PDSI indicates the prolonged and abnormal moisture deficiency or excess. The PDSI is an important climatological tool for evaluating the scope, severity, and frequency of prolonged periods of abnormally dry or wet weather.

- -4.0 or less is considered an extreme drought
- -3.0 to -3.9 is considered a severe drought
- -2.0 to -2.9 is considered a moderate drought
- -1.9 to +1.9 is considered near normal conditions

- 2.0 to 2.9 is considered an unusual moist period
- 3.0 to 3.9 is considered a very moist period
- 4.0 and above is considered an extremely moist period

In May 2007 drought conditions persisted as the area experienced a 15 – 18 inch rainfall deficit. Below average potato and hay crops were reported due to the drought but no loss estimates were compiled.

A Heat Wave is when temperatures are abnormally and uncomfortably hot for an extended period of time. This event could continue from one day to several weeks. Heat waves are often accompanied by high humidity and can have a great impact on lives, including heat strokes, heat exhaustion, and even death. On July 20th, 1986 St. Augustine reached a record high temperature of 103* F; this temperature would represent the extreme heat extent.

The heat index is the "apparent temperature" that describes the combined effect of high air temperature and high humidity. The higher this combination, the more difficult it is for the body to cool itself. All of St. Johns County is susceptible to the entire range of temperatures represented on the chart below describing heat index.

| Relative Humidity % | Temperature (*F) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 | 101 | 102 | 103 | 104 | 105 |
| 90 | 119 | 123 | 128 | 132 | 137 | 141 | 146 | 152 | 157 | 163 | 168 | 174 | 180 | 186 | 193 | 199 |
| 85 | 115 | 119 | 123 | 127 | 132 | 136 | 141 | 145 | 150 | 155 | 161 | 166 | 172 | 178 | 184 | 190 |
| 80 | 112 | 115 | 119 | 123 | 127 | 131 | 135 | 140 | 144 | 149 | 154 | 159 | 164 | 169 | 175 | 180 |
| 75 | 109 | 112 | 115 | 119 | 122 | 126 | 130 | 134 | 138 | 143 | 147 | 152 | 156 | 161 | 166 | 171 |
| 70 | 106 | 109 | 112 | 115 | 118 | 122 | 125 | 129 | 133 | 137 | 141 | 145 | 149 | 154 | 158 | 163 |
| 65 | 103 | 106 | 108 | 111 | 114 | 117 | 121 | 124 | 127 | 131 | 135 | 139 | 143 | 147 | 151 | 155 |
| 60 | 100 | 103 | 105 | 108 | 111 | 114 | 116 | 120 | 123 | 126 | 129 | 133 | 136 | 140 | 144 | 148 |
| 55 | 98 | 100 | 103 | 105 | 107 | 110 | 113 | 115 | 118 | 121 | 124 | 127 | 131 | 134 | 137 | 141 |
| 50 | 96 | 98 | 100 | 102 | 104 | 107 | 109 | 112 | 114 | 117 | 119 | 122 | 125 | 128 | 131 | 135 |
| 45 | 94 | 96 | 98 | 100 | 102 | 104 | 106 | 108 | 110 | 113 | 115 | 118 | 120 | 123 | 126 | 129 |
| 40 | 92 | 94 | 96 | 97 | 99 | 101 | 103 | 105 | 107 | 109 | 111 | 113 | 116 | 118 | 121 | 123 |
| 35 | 91 | 92 | 94 | 95 | 97 | 98 | 100 | 102 | 104 | 106 | 107 | 109 | 112 | 114 | 116 | 118 |
| 30 | 89 | 90 | 92 | 93 | 95 | 96 | 98 | 99 | 101 | 102 | 104 | 106 | 108 | 110 | 112 | 114 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

People in urban areas are more susceptible to the effects of a heat wave due to the Urban Heat Island effect, which happens as a result of changes in their landscape. Buildings, roads, and other infrastructure replace open land and vegetation. Surfaces that were once permeable and moist become impermeable and dry. These changes cause urban regions to become warmer than their rural surroundings, forming an "island" of higher temperatures in the landscape.

The environment, particularly agriculture interest including farms and ranches would likely suffer the greatest impacts from extended periods of drought and heat. Crops would fail and farm animals would suffer from a lack of vegetation to consume. Residents of St. Johns County could begin to see household water wells dry up or begin to have salt water intrusion. All of St. Johns County is susceptible to drought and heat wave conditions. Droughts occur slowly, over months to years and can continue on for many months and years. The drought noted in 2007 took many months to occur so it is very difficult to put an actual time on when it started or ended but it is safe to say that the extent of a drought could last a year or more with an extent of -4.0 extreme drought, on the Palmer Drought Severity Index. A heat wave is generally described as multiple days, up to weeks, of uncomfortable and abnormally hot temperatures, St. Johns County and its municipalities could expect a heat wave to meet these conditions.

7. Winter Storm and Freeze

Vulnerability: Medium

Probability of Future Occurrence: Medium

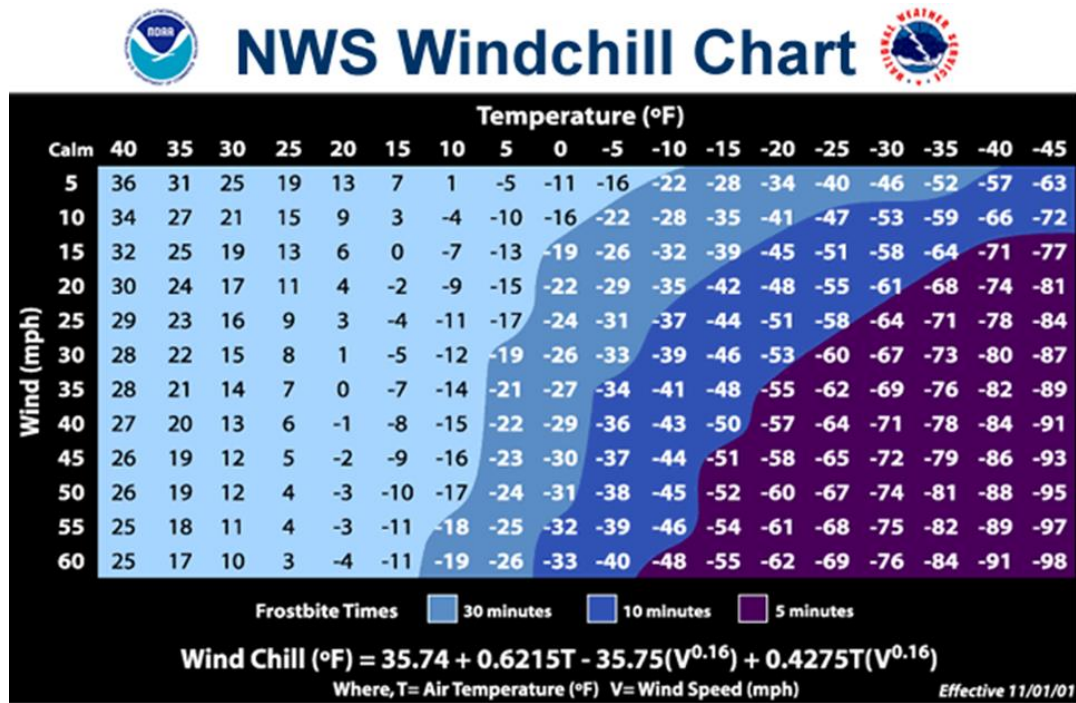
Risk: Medium

A winter storm is defined as a storm that can range from a few hours of moderate snow to blizzard like conditions with wind-driven snow that can last for days. Winter storms can impede visibility, affecting driving conditions, and can have an impact on communications, electricity or other services. Winter storms can range from several states to one county. St. Johns County is not generally susceptible to winter storms, because temperatures rarely reach snow-producing levels. The climactic conditions for winter storms are also not favorable. But temperatures can reach levels low enough to cause damage to crops and water lines.

Freezing occurs when temperatures are below freezing, less than 32° F, over a wide-spread area for a significant period of time. Freezing temperatures can damage agricultural crops and burst water pipes in homes and buildings. In St. Johns County we have an average of 17 days a year at or below freezing. Frost, often associated with freezes can increase damaging effects. Frost is a layer of ice crystals that is produced by the deposition of water from the air onto a surface that is at or below freezing. Some of the coldest ever recorded temperatures in St. Johns County were in January 1985. On January 21st, 1985, St. Augustine recorded a temperature of 10* F and Hastings recorded a temperature of 12* F. St. Johns County experienced an ice storm Christmas 1989. As a result Interstate 95 along with many local roads were closed for 2 days and power outages were widespread. In March 1993 St. Johns County experienced the Storm of the Century. This storm produced ice and winds

gusting over 70 mph, as a result roads were closed and power was out in many parts of the county for 3 days. As demonstrated in the above examples, snow, ice, gusting winds, and extremely cold temperatures could be expected in St. Johns County and its municipalities for multiple consecutive days.

Wind Chill is the term used to describe the rate of heat loss on the human body resulting from the combined effect of low temperature and wind. As winds increase, heat is carried away from the body at a faster rate, driving down both the skin temperature and eventually the internal body temperature. Exposure to low wind chills can be life threatening to both humans and animals alike. In St. Johns County one could experience Wind Chills between 36* F and -11* F. If conditions were right Wind Chills could fall even lower. Below is the National Weather Service Wind Chill Chart.



The following hazards do not appear in the St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy. While each of these hazards has the potential to occur the probability of occurrence is very low.

8. Environmental

a) Sea-level rise

Vulnerability: Low

Probability of Future Occurrence: Low

Risk: Low

(Due to the long term nature of this hazard it has been rated as low)

The two major causes of global sea-level rise are thermal expansion caused by the warming of the oceans and the loss of land-based ice due to increased melting.

One of the primary impacts of sea-level rise will be the loss of land in coastal areas through erosion and submergence of the coastal landscape. Much of the shore along the ocean coast consists of landforms such as beaches, barrier islands, bluffs, and marshes that result from a dynamic interaction between the waves and tides and the geologic composition of a specific location. It has long been recognized that changes in sea level drive changes in the location of these coastal landforms over centuries to millennia. Many of the changes observed over days to years are caused by storms or changes in the amount of sediment available to sustain the shore.

Changes in sea level will also drive changes to the coastal groundwater system that will impact both human populations and coastal ecosystems. Increases in sea-level will raise the fresh water table in many coastal regions. Impacts to humans may include an increase in the potential for septic system failure and salt water intrusion in freshwater drinking wells, including those wells used for municipal water supplies. The intrusion of saltwater into groundwater systems will also impact coastal ecosystems such as marshes by changing the elevation of the freshwater-saltwater interface. (*Source – United State Geological Survey*)

Florida has 1,350 miles of coastline on both the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, St. Johns County lies on the northeast Florida coast with 42 miles of Atlantic coastline. Sea level rise would impact St. Johns County in a variety of ways including negative impacts on the tourist economy, structures and infrastructure located near the coast (including historic structures in the City of St. Augustine), coastal marsh environments and fresh drinking water. Predictions on levels of sea rise vary greatly and are difficult to estimate but as a coastal community at some point in the future we will almost certainly feel the effects of the rising seas.

b) Sinkholes

Vulnerability: Low

Probability of Future Occurrence: Low

Risk: Low

Sinkholes are a common feature of Florida's landscape due to the state's karst topography. This karst topography can include caves, disappearing streams, springs, and underground drainage systems, all of which occur in Florida. A sinkhole is formed when carbonate layers that lie beneath the ground's surface dissolve and the ground above the void collapses from its weight over the open space underneath. Sinkholes can cause significant damage to roads, homes, and other buildings that lie on the surface above the underground void. (*Source - Florida Department of Environmental Protection*)

St. Johns County has not had any major sinkholes as the geology, a thick carbonate layer above the aquifer, of the County does not support the formation of sinkholes. Each year there are several reports of small sinkholes occurring. The majority of these reported sinkholes are not true karst depressions but a result of a failure of infrastructure such as a road bed, drainage pipes or old/abandoned septic tank and as such are classified as subsidence incidents. None of these reported subsidence incidents have resulted in a significant loss.

c) Tsunamis

Vulnerability: Low

Probability of Future Occurrence: Low

Risk: Low

Tsunamis are sea waves that have the potential to be highly destructive. In the deep ocean the waves appear to be small but as they approach the shore they can become extremely large. They may be generated by earthquakes, volcanic explosions, meteorite impacts, or underwater landslides.

The possibility of a tsunami impacting the Atlantic or Gulf Coasts of Florida is considered to be remote. This is because most tsunamis are associated with major earthquakes. The Atlantic Ocean basin is not ringed by large faults as is the Pacific, which is associated both with earthquakes and tsunamis. It is thought that rare underwater landslides would pose a greater risk in the Atlantic Ocean. The Caribbean region has a history of both earthquakes and tsunamis but they do not appear to have impacted Florida's coastlines. The risk of a tsunami striking Florida is considered to be low. (*Source - Florida Department of Environmental Protection*)

d) Earthquakes

Vulnerability: Medium

Probability of Future Occurrence: Low

Risk: Low

Earthquakes are rapid movements of the earth causing movement and shifting of rock beneath the surface. The event of an earthquake occurring in St. Johns County is rare although past events have been recorded in the State of Florida. The most recent earthquake was recorded in Daytona in 1975. Florida's geology does not contain any fault lines or volcanoes, which are generally associated with earthquakes. Earthquakes were recorded in Florida in 1879, 1880, 1886, 1893, 1948, 1952 and 1975, but only one caused very minimal damage. Earthquakes can, however cause severe damage and loss of life. Earthquakes are not a major hazard concern in the State of Florida.

9. Mass Migration / Civil Disturbance

Vulnerability: Low

Probability of Future Occurrence: Low

Risk: Low

St. Johns County has a minor history of civil unrest, occurring during the 1960's and early in 2020. The death of George Floyd in May of 2020 sparked national protest against law enforcement agencies and racial tensions rose. To date, St. Johns County and its municipalities have seen a few peaceful protests with gatherings of approximately 200-250 people. Neighboring Duval County has had past rioting and is currently experiencing a similar environment however with larger gatherings occurring and some violent actions taking place. Areas most at risk in Duval County are not located near St. Johns County, as such businesses and law enforcement will have adequate time to initiate security measures. Law enforcement and security would be the lead planning concern of this scenario. Mass immigration is a low probability because of St. Johns County's location on the northeast coast of Florida. Potential impacts of such an event would be an increase need for social services, law enforcement and detention facilities.

10. Biological

Vulnerability: Medium

Probability of Future Occurrence: Medium

Risk: Medium

Biological hazards are those associated with any insect, animal or pathogen that could pose an economic or health threat. They are a pervasive threat to the agricultural community. The possibility exists for the importation of pathogens that could have a widespread effect on the livestock industries. In addition, there is the possibility of an adverse effect to the general population through naturally occurring pathogens (i.e. influenza, emerging infectious diseases or by way of a terrorist action).

Exotic Pest and Diseases – St. Johns County’s large agricultural areas are vulnerable to exotic pests and / or diseases. The St. Johns County Agricultural Extension Office, with assistance from the FDOH as necessary, would be the lead agency for addressing and managing this type of outbreak. St. Johns County has never experienced an exotic pest or disease outbreak of record.

Pandemic Outbreaks – The majority of St. Johns County’s population is located in the City of St. Augustine, the City of St. Augustine Beach and in the unincorporated areas of the Northwest and Northeast portions of the County. However, any part of St. Johns County may be vulnerable to disease outbreaks. The Florida Department of Health - St. Johns County, in conjunction with partner agencies will identify and manage any pandemic outbreak event. Potential impacts of a pandemic outbreak include economic losses, hospital surge, mass care, mass casualties, population quarantine and infectious disease control.

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019. COVID-19 is caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2 which is a new virus in humans causing respiratory illness which can be spread from person-to-person. In March of 2020 COVID-19 was introduced into the nation. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus have experienced mild to moderate respiratory illness and recovered without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness requiring hospitalization. At this time, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19. However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments. *(Source – CDC & World Health Organization)*

To date, St. Johns County, in conjunction with its municipalities and health care industry, have been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic for nearly 5 months. Stresses on supply chain management, Continuity of Operations (COOP), application and enforcement of Executive Orders of the Governor of Florida, mitigation measures, and public information have all been areas

of focus during this response. A more detailed and thorough After Action Report will be developed upon the conclusion, or stabilization, of this event.

11. **Technological/Critical Infrastructure Disruption**

A technological hazard is one, which is a direct result of the failure of a manmade system or the exposure of the population to a hazardous material (hazardous materials are previously discussed as singular hazard and will not be addressed in this section) There is the potential for specific technological hazards to affect a large segment of the population and / or interfere with critical government, law enforcement, public works and public health / medical functions. There is an even greater problem when this technological failure results in a direct health and safety risk to the population. A number of things occur daily in St. Johns County, including hazardous material spills, or failure of the electrical power grid, which could constitute a threat to the population or produce widespread unmet needs. Each of these potential hazards would require a coordinated and speedy response, as well as attention to the short and long term effects. The primary hazards associated with this category are listed below.

St. Johns County's level of vulnerability to such an incident is further described below:

a) Surface transportation spills

Vulnerability: Medium

Probability of Future Occurrence: Medium

Risk: Medium

Because of the major surface road and rail transportation corridors in the County, the potential for hazardous materials spills is moderate to high. Florida East Coast Railway operates throughout St. Johns County, running parallel to U.S. Highway – 1 and Interstate 95, which both run north - south throughout the County and are highly traveled by commercial traffic. Other routes used by commercial vehicles include State Roads 16, 206, 207, and 312 and County Roads 208, 210, and International Golf Parkway. Among the hazardous materials transported are gasoline, propane, chlorine, and ammonia.

b) Cyber-Attack

Vulnerability: Medium

Probability of Future Occurrence: Medium

Risk: Medium

A cyber-attack is deliberate exploitation of computer systems,

technology-dependent enterprises and networks. Cyber-attacks use malicious code to alter computer code or data, resulting in disruptive consequences that can compromise data and lead to cybercrimes, such as information and identity theft.

Cyberattacks may include the following consequences:

- Identity theft, fraud, extortion
- Malware, pharming, phishing, spamming, spoofing, spyware, Trojans and viruses
- Stolen hardware, such as laptops or mobile devices
- Denial-of-service and distributed denial-of-service attacks
- Breach of access
- Password sniffing
- System infiltration
- Website defacement
- Private and public Web browser exploits
- Intellectual property theft or unauthorized access

Both private and public entities in St. Johns County are vulnerable to cyber-attack.

c) Natural gas

Vulnerability: Low

Probability of Future Occurrence: Low

Risk: Low

St. Johns County has over 2,000 miles of natural gas lines throughout the County. Natural gas lines run along most major roadways in the County. The lines are marked by either a yellow pipe along the side of the road or with a yellow stripe marked on the road. The lines are all privately owned by TECO Peoples Gas and are routinely maintained. TECO Peoples Gas also employs a strict safety program with a vehicle that routinely monitors the lines with detection equipment that will detect gas levels of 1 part per million. The biggest hazard to gas lines is breach by contractors working in the area.

d) Nuclear Power Plants

Vulnerability: Low

Probability of Future Occurrence: Low

Risk: Low

There are no nuclear facilities within St. Johns County or within the

50 mile planning radius for a nuclear facility. A research reactor is located in Gainesville, Florida on the University of Florida campus. It is possible that the county could serve as a mass care site for evacuees from areas near a nuclear facility. In addition to shelter, planning concerns include medical and public health issues related to contamination and exposure of evacuees.

e) Air Crashes

Vulnerability: Low

Probability of Future Occurrence: Low

Risk: Low

St. Johns County has one (1) public municipal airport: Northeast Florida Regional Airport | 4900 US-1 North | St. Augustine, FL 32095. Currently no commercial airlines operate flights in or out of the Northeast Florida Regional Airport. There are multiple businesses, including the Northrup Grumman Corporation, and private charters operating at the airport. In the event of an airport mass casualty incident, it is likely that the resources of the responding agencies would be depleted and additional resources would be required from outside St. Johns County. Military aircraft also operate in and out of the Airport, as such; the potential for a military aircraft incident exists and could possibly require additional resources. Only a small segment of the population would normally be affected.

f) Coastal Oil Spills

Vulnerability: Medium

Probability of Future Occurrence: Low

Risk: Medium

Coastal oil spills are moderate to major impact should one occur. There are no nearby offshore oilrigs. Shipping on the St. Johns River is relatively light. The greatest threat comes from the Port of Jacksonville and future drilling off the coast of Cuba. With the large volume of waterborne traffic at the Port of Jacksonville, a spill is possible. Time, distance and currents are favorable to St. Johns County's planning effort. Warning residents and landowners of the spill's approach, allows for some mitigating actions to take place to minimize damage. Most response capabilities are beyond the scope of St. Johns County and would come from federal authorities in accordance with the Area Contingency Plan which is directed by the U.S. Coast Guard. St. Johns County's efforts would center on warning, recovery and mitigation.

g) Special Events

Vulnerability: Low

Probability of Future Occurrence: Medium

Risk: Low

St. Johns County and the City of St. Augustine are tourist destinations and host many special events each year. St. Johns County is also a host County to special events that are in Jacksonville. Local events include the Fourth of July Fireworks, the Easter Festival and Parade, Nights of Lights events and the TPC Golf Tournament. Each activity requires community planning and is a major impact on Law Enforcement and Emergency Services. Potential effects on St. Johns County include evacuation of large populations, mass care, mass casualty, sheltering, civil unrest and communications failures.

B. Geographic Information

1. St. Johns County is located in the Northeast region of Florida, bordered on the East by the Atlantic Ocean and on the West by the St. Johns River. Duval County borders the North; Flagler County borders the South; and Clay County and Putnam County border West of the St. Johns River. See LMS for further information.
 - a) Area in square miles: 609
 - b) Topography: St. Johns County has the longest shoreline in northeast Florida with approximately 42 miles of Atlantic Ocean shoreline on the east. The average elevation in St. Johns County is estimated at 15 feet. St. Augustine, the county seat, is the oldest permanent settlement in the United States, St. Augustine Beach was incorporated in 1959 with a land area of 2.5 square miles, while Hastings is known as the potato capital of Florida.
 - c) Land use patterns are influenced by the waterways and road systems. The primary open land uses are agricultural and forest, which are subject to weather phenomenon or wildfire type disasters, and consist of wildlife and water management areas which are ecologically sensitive.
 - d) Water area in square miles: 52
 - e) Drainage patterns: St. Johns County is part of the upper East Coast Basin that begins south of Jacksonville at its northern end and flows south to New Smyrna Beach. The drainage is approximately 730

square miles. This basin is characterized by a strip of coastal ridges separating the Atlantic Ocean from a narrow lagoon system and the mainland. This lagoon system is connected by the Intracoastal Waterway (ICWW). The major lagoons in the northeast Florida region are the Tolomato River, which is between St. Augustine and Jacksonville, and the Matanzas River from St. Augustine to the Matanzas Inlet. The Guana River is a lagoon separate from the ICWW, which is situated roughly parallel and east of the Tolomato River.

- f) Environmentally sensitive areas: St. Johns County is part of the Atlantic Coastal Plain that is comprised of a diverse mixture of land cover that ranges from coastal marshes to upland oak hammocks and scrub areas. Included in the county are commercial and natural forest areas, rivers and associated wetlands. The large forested areas in the county such as the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve and Matanzas State Forest provide refuge for a wide variety of animal and plant species. The St. Johns River serves as the western boundary of the county with the Atlantic Ocean serving as the eastern boundary. St. Johns County has 42 miles of coastline along the Atlantic Ocean and 43 miles of coastline along the St. Johns River that provides habitats for plants and animals, protection from storms, recreational opportunities and economic income for the county. The sandy beach is generally backed by a dune system, which can reach heights of 40 feet, but is usually 10 to 20 feet high.
- g) Flood Prone Areas: Identified as those areas within the 100-year and 500-year floodplain as delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These are areas which experience flooding associated with heavy rainfall events which cause localized flooding from overflowing streams or ponds in low lying areas. In St. Johns County floodplains are associated with the St. Johns River and the Intracoastal Waterway and their tributaries. Flooding within these areas account for the principle flooding problems within the County. Additional Flood information can be found in the St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy.²
- h) Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS): The Coastal Construction Control Line in the County is the 30-year erosion control line.

² The St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy is a separate reference and planning document that can be found on file at the Division of Emergency Management.

Three areas in the County have been designated as Coastal Barriers within the Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS) by the Federal Government. These areas are:

- a. The Guana River Area (Unit FL03P) located in the Guana River Marsh Aquatic Preserve and Guana River Wildlife Management Area, extending out seaward to the 20 to 30 foot bathymetric contour.
- b. The Usina Beach area (Unit PO4A) located between Vilano and Usina Beaches, north of the St. Augustine Inlet. It extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the Tolomato River where it includes Saltwater Marsh.
- c. The Conch Island area (Unit P05 and P05P) which includes the Porpoise Point area on the southern tip of the northern barrier island to the north of the St. Augustine Inlet, the St. Augustine Inlet, Conch Island, an undeveloped island which is included in Anastasia State Park; and St. Augustine Beach.
- d. The Matanzas River/Inlet area (Unit P05A and P05AP) which includes barrier island beginning approximately 1 mile north of the Inlet and extending south to the St. Johns County / Flagler County line, including an area that goes west into Pellicer Creek. It includes extensive saltwater and brackish marsh areas.

The Coastal Barrier Resources Act of 1982 (CBRA) was specifically designed to restrict federally subsidized development of undeveloped coastal barriers along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts in order to:

- minimize loss of human life by discouraging development in high risk areas
- reduce wasteful expenditure of federal resources
- protect the natural resources associated with coastal barriers.

This Act prohibits, within the undeveloped, unprotected coastal barrier of the Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS), and expenditure of federal funds promoting development. The intent of the Act was to remove undeveloped coastal barriers from about 40 federal incentive programs for new development, such as National Flood Insurance, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers structural development projects, and federal assistance for construction of sewer and water systems, highways, bridges and jetties. The intent of the Act is to put the burden of financial risk associated with development on those who choose to live on coastal barriers. There

have been subsequent amendments and variations to the CBRA which provide reauthorizations and coverage to the original act developed in 1982.

2. Some geographic areas of St. Johns County are more vulnerable to impact from specific hazards than others. The following describes these areas and the hazards to which they are vulnerable:

- a) St. Johns River / Intracoastal Waterway / Atlantic Coast

Areas along the County's major waterways are particularly vulnerable to the effects of tropical cyclone, environmental and technological events including:

- storm surge
- wind damage from hurricane winds
- winter storms
- coastal flooding (non-tropical)
- oil spills / hazardous materials
- drought

- b) Major Roadways / Rail Corridors

Federal Interstates: I-95

Federal Highways: US-1

State Highways: SR-13; SR-16; SR-206; SR-207; SR-312; SR-A1A

County Road: 204, 208, 210, 214, 305

Railroads: Florida East Coast Railroad

All major transportation systems in the County are used by passenger and commercial traffic. These roadways pass through the County's most densely populated areas as well as environmentally sensitive lands. In addition, the major roadways serve as primary hurricane evacuation routes away from coastal areas. Hazards impacting these areas could include:

- hazardous materials spills
- mass casualty / fatality incidents
- hurricane evacuation traffic congestion
- host sheltering / mass care

C. Vulnerability Analysis (Demographics)

1. As the 8th fastest-growing County in the United States and one of the fastest growing counties in Florida, St. Johns County has experienced

extraordinary growth during the past thirty years. St. Johns County grew from a population of 51,303 in 1980, to approximately 254,261 in 2018. Data, unless otherwise noted, is collected from the US Census Bureau. Additional information can be found in the extensive vulnerability analysis in the St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy.³

- a) St. Johns County’s population based on U.S. Census Bureau –ESRI 2018 Community Profile:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| City of St. Augustine | 14,576 |
| City of St. Augustine Beach | 7,026 |
| <u>Unincorporated</u> | <u>232,659</u> |
| Total | 254,261 |

- b) The population density in St. Johns County is 417.51 persons per square mile. Approximately 5.7% of the County’s population resides in its county seat.
- c) The age group distribution for the county is changing as a result of St. Johns County’s continual growth and the longer average life span. The following table lists the population distribution by age.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY AGE

| Age | |
|------------|-------|
| Under 15 | 18.7% |
| 15-24 | 11.1% |
| 25-44 | 23.3% |
| 45-64 | 28.5% |
| 65-74 | 11.6% |
| 75+ | 7.8% |
| Median Age | 43.3 |

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ESRI Community Profile 2019

- d) Florida Statute 252.355 requires Emergency Management officials to offer registration to any citizen requiring assistance during an emergency. It further mandates that officials plan for resource allocation to meet the needs of this population. St. Johns County has established a program to register, transport and shelter this population.⁴

Population estimates suggest the number of residents over the age

³ The St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy is a separate reference and planning document that can be found on file at the Division of Emergency Management.

⁴ Also refer to the following reference documents on file at the Division of Emergency Management: 1) St. Johns County Special Needs Procedures / Opening a Special Needs Shelter. 2) St. Johns County Guidance Document for Home Health Care Agencies for Special Needs Clients.

of 65 will continue to increase over the years. Special Needs Registration is coordinated and consolidated through St. Johns County Emergency Management. Special Needs Registration Forms are received from the St. Johns County Council on Aging, the Florida Department of Health - St. Johns, various Health Care and Home Health Agencies, individuals and other sources. The potential for Persons with Special Needs who may require assistance in a major disaster event is considerable. Approximately 600 (this number varies) citizens are currently pre-registered with the County for assistance. This may be due to age, infirmity, illness, transportation challenges, or vulnerability. These citizens require assistance with activities of daily living, whether it is mobility assistance, medical assistance or simply transportation assistance. The typical special needs client in St. Johns County is over 65 years old, lives alone or with a spouse, suffers from chronic illness, lives in an evacuation area or mobile home, and is cared for in the home by a home health agency.

The St. Johns County Special Needs Registration Program was created to pre-identify and preplan for the needs of persons requiring assistance through registration and prior triage based on information provided by the client and/or the home health agency. All Special Needs Client information is on file with St. Johns County Emergency Management.

Registration – Upon receiving Registration Forms, each applicant is carefully triaged, taking various health issues into consideration, to insure proper placement and is categorized into one of three groups. Low: Citizens requiring transportation to Public Shelters; Medium: Citizens with special medical needs who are capable of transporting themselves to the Special Needs Shelter; and High: Citizens with special medical needs who require transportation to the Special Needs Shelter.

Each registrant is then input into the SJC Evacuation Assistance Database, which allows for easy reference of our Special Needs Registrants. Each client's registration form is also labeled / input with their Evacuation Zone to insure accuracy when specified areas are called to evacuate. After registration is complete, each client is notified by mail of their registration, shelter placement and a list of supplies necessary when evacuating to a shelter.

Notification – When the threat of disaster is imminent, the Emergency Operations Center will activate personnel from ESF-1, 8, & 14 as phone operators. Those individuals will call all of the pre-registered clients who reside in the expected impact areas. The

clients will be informed about the emergency, and questioned concerning their need for assistance in the evacuation. Then, if necessary or required, appropriate transportation arrangements will be made.

Transportation – Due to the large number of clients requiring assistance, transportation may start before an evacuation order / recommendation. The County will utilize buses and wheelchair lift vehicles from the St. Johns County School District, who will be organizing the transportation process, and the St. Johns County Council on Aging. Transportation is only available to a shelter within St. Johns County. During an emergency, clients will not be transported across County lines, to private homes or to hotels / motels.

- e) Agriculture as an occupation makes up approximately 1% of the St. Johns County workforce. The majority of this population lives in and around Hastings.
- f) The annual tourist population in St. Johns County was approximately 6.3 million in 2016, with most tourists to the area visiting the City of St. Augustine and the County beaches. This population has a tremendous effect on the economy of the County. In 2019 visitors spent almost \$712 million in St. Johns County.
- g) St. Johns County has an 8.8% non-English speaking population. The hearing-impaired population for the County is less than 2%. St. Johns County is unique, as the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is located here. School statistics from July 2020 note that they service over 975 students from 53 of 67 counties in Florida. Of those, 75% live on campus Monday - Friday, and 25% serve as day students.
- h) The transient (displaced) population in St. Johns County, as of The 2016 Point in Time (PIT) count, indicated that 1064 people/846 households were homeless on January 28, 2016, with 809 of those individuals unsheltered and 255 sheltered. This information was provided by an official survey conducted by the St. Johns County Continuum of Care.
- i) There are approximately 7,484 mobile homes throughout St. Johns County. There are a few large mobile home communities in the County including Flagler Estates, Coquina Crossing, Spanish Trails, Treasure Beach and Moultrie Oaks. The remaining mobile homes are scattered through the County including some on the barrier islands.

j) St. Johns County has two (2) juvenile detention centers; Hastings Youth Academy located at 765 East St. Johns Avenue | Hastings, Florida and the St. Johns Juvenile Correctional Facility located at 4500 Avenue D | St. Augustine, Florida. St. Johns County has one Detention Center which is a 664-bed facility to house both male and female inmates for pre-trial and short-term sentences. The County also has a Community Release Center which houses male inmates who are sentenced to the county jail for 364 days or less. Inmates housed in this facility are allowed to participate in the work release program. Both of these facilities are located behind the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office on Lewis Speedway. When planning for correctional facilities St. Johns County assumes each facility will be at capacity, which is established by bed count.

- Hastings Comprehensive Mental Health Treatment Program
98 Beds | Male only | Juvenile, High Risk
- St. Johns County Juvenile Correctional Residential Facility
70 Beds | Male | Juvenile, High Risk
- St. Johns County Detention Center
664 Beds | Male & Female | Adult
- St. Johns County Community Release Center
100 Beds | Male only | Adult

2. Population in Vulnerable Areas: The greatest concentration of population in St. Johns County exists in the areas most vulnerable to impact from specific hazards, such as hurricanes and transportation accidents/ hazardous material spills. This is addressed in the St. Johns County LMS, which identifies vulnerable areas and population, and recommends specific mitigation projects to avoid, minimize or reduce damage. Awareness of potential population in vulnerable areas assists in planning for adequate response and recovery.

D. Economic Profile

The following is an economic profile of the County:

1. Employment by sector: The following table illustrates a breakdown of employment by sector with the data currently available. This information includes civilian employees only.

2018 - EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR (Civilian Employed Population)

| Industry | Number of employees | Percent |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining | 1,123 | 1% |
| Construction | 5,935 | 5.5% |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Manufacturing | 6,629 | 6.1% |
| Wholesale trade | 2,752 | 2.5% |
| Retail trade | 12,427 | 11.5% |
| Transportation and warehousing, and utilities | 4,643 | 4.3% |
| Information | 1,541 | 1.4% |
| Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing | 13,318 | 12.3% |
| Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services | 14,847 | 13.7% |
| Educational services, and health care and social assistance | 22,052 | 20.4% |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services | 12,604 | 11.7% |
| Other services, except public administration | 4,827 | 4.5% |
| Public administration | 5,317 | 4.9% |
| TOTAL | 108,015 | 100% |

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

2. **Employment Information:** The following table illustrates labor force statistics for St. Johns County. (Population Age 16 and over)

ST. JOHNS COUNTY LABOR STATISTICS

| St. Johns County Labor Force Statistics 2018 | |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 113,569 |
| Employed | 108,015 |
| Unemployed | 5,554 |
| Unemployment Rate | 2.9% |
| Armed Forces | 7171 |
| Not in Labor Force | 76,042 |

Source: American Community Survey

3. **Income:** The most current information available lists median household income as \$77,323 (2018), per capita income as \$41,393 (2018) (Source - US Census Bureau)
4. **Property Types and Values:** The following table illustrates property types and values for St. Johns County as of 2020.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY PROPERTY TYPES AND VALUES – 2020

| | Total Parcels | Just Value \$ | Average Value \$ |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Residential | 112,006 | 25,616,047,865 | 228,702 |
| Commercial | 3,009 | 2,324,863,115 | 772,636 |
| Industrial | 468 | 429,440,428 | 917,608 |
| Government | 1,874 | 19,557,652 | 10,436 |
| Institutional | 500 | 258,948,052 | 517,896 |
| Agricultural | 2,133 | 121,818,734 | 57,111 |

| | | | |
|--------------|---------|----------------|--|
| TOTAL | 119,990 | 28,770,675,846 | |
|--------------|---------|----------------|--|

SOURCE: St. Johns County Property Appraiser's Office

E. Emergency Management Support Facilities

The following facilities support emergency management operations and resources:

1. Essential services and functions for survivors, continuation of public safety actions, and disaster recovery are performed or provided in St. Johns County. They also include infrastructure essential to the mission of critical facilities such as water, power and sewer. St. Johns County Division of Emergency Management maintains a Critical Facilities Inventory. Data is updated annually, included in the St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy and provided to the Florida Division of Emergency Management. A complete listing is available from St. Johns County Emergency Management.
2. Additional information in regards to logistics can be found in the St. Johns County Logistics Strategy⁵. The Logistical Staging Areas in St. Johns County are as follows:
 - a) St. Johns County Utilities Warehouse
2104 Arc Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32084
 - b) Prime Outlets
500 Prime Outlets Blvd.
St. Augustine, FL 32084
 - c) Anastasia Mosquito Control District
120 EOC Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32092
 - d) Vacant Warehouse on Commercial Dr.
3550 Commercial Dr.
St. Augustine, FL 32092
3. Emergency Helicopter Landing Zones for Assessment Teams include:

Primary: Northeast Florida Regional Airport
4900 US 1 N
St. Augustine, FL 32095

⁵ The St. Johns County Logistics and POD Strategy is located in Appendix M

29° 57' 15.6672" N
81° 20' 34.566" W

Secondary: Anastasia Mosquito Control District
120 EOC Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32092
29° 54' 09.10800" N
81° 24' 48.63600" W

A complete list of pre-identified Emergency Helicopter Landing Zones is maintained by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office as they are responsible for establishing areas for the safe landing of emergency air units.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

Emergency Operations span four separate but contiguous phases: emergency planning, response, recovery and mitigation of a disaster. For the purposes of this plan, this concept of operations will focus on emergency response and relief efforts and measures to be taken for a smooth transition into intermediate and long term recovery from a major or catastrophic disaster. Organizational charts and matrixes have been provided in the Appendices to show the county's responsibility and the coordination between local agencies and the ESF's. In addition, the scope of these operational concepts and response actions will include:

1. Provide emergency notification and warning to the public and media.
2. Protection of life and property.
3. Coordination of emergency mobilization procedures.
4. Gather and disseminate information to establish situational awareness and a common operating picture.
5. Initiate and track the implementation of emergency protective actions.
6. Establish priorities for each operational period.
7. Conduct rapid impact assessments of disaster impacts to the community and immediate emergency resource needs.
8. Ensure areas with the greatest impacts from the disaster are secured and communications are established.
9. Conduct emergency relief operations to ensure survivors, including pets, have been identified and that their needs are met including food, water, shelter and medical needs.
10. Conducting preliminary damage assessments to determine the need for federal assistance.

11. Relaxation of protective actions and coordination of reentry into evacuated areas.
12. Restoration of essential public facilities and services.
13. Preparing for federal disaster assistance (public and individual), including tracking of public fund expenditures.
14. Coordination and prioritization of resources (personnel, equipment, and any other supplies) including Mutual Aid requests.
15. Coordination of volunteer organizations and donated resources.
16. Coordination and dissemination of information and instructions to the public.
17. Restoration of public infrastructure damaged by the disaster.
18. Coordinate transition from response phase to recovery phase.

The EOC serves as the central command and control point for emergency-related operations and activities and requests for deployment of resources. In the event the EOC is threatened, an Alternate EOC is activated. The locations of the primary and secondary EOC are listed below. Additional COOP / COG relocation information can be found in the St. Johns County Continuity of Operations / Continuity of Government Plan on file at the St. Johns County EOC.

Primary: St. Johns County EOC
100 EOC Dr.
St. Augustine, FL 32092

Secondary: St. Johns County Agricultural Center
3125 Agricultural Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32092

The County must be able to respond quickly and effectively to developing events. When an event or potential event is first detected, the EOC initiates monitoring. Communications is maintained between the EOC and the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).

While emergency response actions necessary to protect public health and safety are being implemented, the Policy Group will coordinate with the EMD, who will work with the ESF's to make preparations to facilitate the rapid deployment of resources, activate the County's Emergency Operations Center if necessary and implement this plan.

Operations Staff in the EOC and ESF representatives will contact the designated emergency coordinators in affected municipalities to begin to identify needed and anticipated resources and contact persons. Resource requests, which exceed the capability of the County, will be forwarded to the State ESF's.

The goal for each ESF is to have at least three individuals who are fully trained and capable of performing their duties and responsibilities in the EOC. It is essential that we are able to staff two shifts per day in the EOC for each activated ESF. Realizing of course, that each situation is different and depending on the scope of the disaster / emergency, not all ESF's may be activated or require 24-hour staffing. The Emergency Management Director will determine staffing levels as required by the type and level of disaster.

| Level of Disaster | Primary Response | Additional Responsibilities |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Minor | EMD * | ESF-5, ESF-6, ESF-14 |
| EMD in coordination with respective ESF-s will determine which ESF's require 24-hour operation | ESF-2 | ESF-16, ESF-13, ESF-17 |
| | ESF-3 | ESF-1, ESF-7, ESF-12 |
| | ESF-4 | ESF-10, ESF-15 |
| | ESF-9 ** | ESF-8, EST-11 |
| Minor to Major | Chairperson and selected member of the Policy Group. | |
| | EMD * | ESF-5, ESF-14 |
| | Operations Officer ** | |
| | ESF-1 | ESF-6, ESF-11 |
| | ESF-2 | ESF-17 |
| | ESF-3 | ESF-7, ESF-12 |
| | ESF-4 | ESF-10, ESF-15 |
| | ESF-8 | ESF-9 |
| ESF-16 | ESF-13 | |
| Major to Catastrophic | Chairperson and members of the Policy Group. | |
| EMD in coordination with respective ESF's will determine which ESF's require 24-hour operation | EMD * | |
| | Shift 1 Operations Officer * Shift 2 Operations Officer ** All ESF's with Supporting Agencies. NIMS would be employed fully at this level | |
| * Primary team leader ** Alternate team leader | | |

B. Assignment of Responsibilities

A department, division or agency may be designated as the Primary Agency or Lead Agency for an ESF for a number of reasons. The agency may have a statutory responsibility to perform that function, or the agency may have developed the necessary expertise to lead the ESF. In some agencies, a portion of the agency's mission is very similar to the mission of the ESF; therefore, the skills to respond in a disaster can be immediately translated from the daily business of that agency. As the Primary agency, that agency

has the necessary contacts and expertise to coordinate the activities of that support function.

St. Johns County is a medium sized county, there may be times when the NIMS and/or ESF system is used by the county, depending on the scope of the disaster, one agency may be responsible for several tasks, each represented by a different ESF in the State CEMP. This is a normal occurrence in growing counties with moderate resources.

Upon activation of the EOC, the lead agencies for the ESF's will designate a representative in the EOC to coordinate that ESF. It is the primary agency's discretion as to how many, if any, support agencies they will require to assist them. However, due to space available in the EOC, the attendance of support agencies should be closely coordinated with the EMD in the development of standard operating guidelines.

The Primary department or agency for the ESF will be responsible for obtaining all information relating to ESF activities and requirements caused by the emergency and disaster response. This information gathering will frequently require the primary agency to step outside traditional information gathering protocols.

The County will respond to local requests for assistance through the ESF process. Within the EOC, requests for assistance will be tasked to the ESF's for completion. The primary agency will be responsible for coordinating the delivery of that assistance.

The EOC Operations Coordinator will issue mission assignments to the primary departments for each ESF based on the identified resource shortfall. Resource tasking will be accomplished through the ESF's on a mission assignment basis. The tasking on a mission assignment basis means that a local government's resource shortfall will be addressed through assigning a mission to address the shortfall rather than tasking specific pieces of equipment or personnel.

The primary department or agency for that ESF will be responsible for identifying the particular resource or resources that will accomplish the mission and coordinate the delivery of that resource to the local government.

C. Plan Activation

In 1994, the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners passed Ordinance 94-25 outlining the authority for declaring a Local State of Emergency. The Board then updated language in 2000 with Ordinance

2000-38, and in 2021 passed Ordinance 2021-4 known as the *St. Johns County Emergency Management Ordinance*.

Section 5, 2021-4, State of Local Emergency:

The Board may issue a proclamation declaring a state of local emergency when it determines that (1) a disaster or emergency has occurred that affects the County, either directly or because of an interlocal agreement to which the County is a party; (2) the occurrence or threat of such disaster or emergency is imminent and requires immediate and expeditious action; or (3) an extension of an existing state of local emergency is necessary and appropriate to enable the County to receive state or federal assistance or aid. When a quorum of the Board is unable to meet, the proclamation may be issued by the Chair of the Board. In the absence of the Chair, the proclamation may be issued by the Vice Chair. In the absence of both the Chair and the Vice Chair, the proclamation may be issued by the County Administrator, or, in the absence of the County Administrator, the Director.

D. Warning and Dissemination

1. General

The purpose of this section is to outline the systems available for warning the responsible government officials and the general public of the threat of an impending disaster or that an actual emergency situation is in progress in the County.

Warnings of impending or potential emergencies such as a hurricane, tornado, or severe weather, pandemic or a notification of a sudden incident such as a tornado touchdown, an airplane crash, a major hazardous materials release or any other significant event that may impact multiple jurisdictions or large numbers of people must be disseminated to responsible officials, emergency response agencies, and to the public. The former notification is for the purpose of implementing emergency government and management procedures and reporting such actions to State emergency management agencies. The latter notification is for instructions on appropriate protective actions and preparedness and response measures to take.

2. County Warning Point

The St. Johns County 911 Fire / Rescue Communications Center located at the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Operations Center is designated as the official Warning Point for St. Johns County. The

EMNet System, 911 System, and 800 MHz radio system are housed in this facility. The Communication Supervisor is designated as the Warning Officer for St. Johns County. Back-up communications are available at St. Johns County Fire Rescue Administration Building and the Sherriff's Office Mobile Command.

3. Significant Incidents

Notifications of watches, warnings, or the occurrence of significant events will be received at the Warning Point and the Emergency Operations Center through bulletins and advisories from the National Weather Service, EMNet, the NOAA Weather Radio, telephone, local media, and citizens. These significant incidents follow guidance of the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) and may include but are not limited to the following:

- a) Any incident that may require a substantial evacuation and / or relocation of a given area
- b) Any event posing a potential threat for a mass casualty incident
- c) Any weather related warning advisory
- d) Any formation of tropical weather systems
- e) Any incident which closes, or significantly blocks, major roadways within the County
- f) Any large or multiple structure fires
- g) Any prolonged shutdown of public utilities
- h) Any incident where public resources within St. Johns County are being deployed out of the County
- i) Any event posing a major environmental threat

4. Alerting

Upon the receipt of notification of any such significant event the Communications Supervisor or on-duty Communications personnel shall implement the procedure appropriate to the event (weather, fire, hazardous materials, mass casualty incidents, etc.) The Communications Supervisor will alert the Emergency Management Director as needed. The Director or their designee may advise that one, or a combination of the following actions, be initiated by the Communications Supervisor as the County Warning Officer or some other designee:

- a) Everbridge Notification / Call-Out
- b) EMNet Activation of the IPAWS System
- c) Notify the State Warning Point, via EMNet or by telephone
- d) Notify one or more designated agencies of county

government or political subdivision(s)

5. EOC Call Out Alert

The EOC call-out alert when initiated will be made to all EOC staff and administration utilizing the Everbridge Notification System established and maintained by the Division of Emergency Management. It will be the responsibility of Primary Contacts maintained in the Everbridge Database to notify their respective support agencies, division directors, and / or staff, under their span of control. In addition, the following actions will be initiated:

- a) An alert will be sent to all local Public Safety Answering Points and they will in turn notify public safety agencies for which they are jurisdictionally responsible.
- b) St. Johns County political subdivisions, and other governmental and non-governmental agencies, will be contacted. They will utilize their own internal procedures to notify their staff of the threat or emergency situation.
- c) Warning the public, whether via the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), Everbridge or other available means, will include instructions for any required actions, i.e., evacuation, keeping away from a disaster area, seeking cover from a threatened tornado.

E. Agency Notification when County / 911 Communications Center Procedures Are Not Implemented and EOC is Activated:

Upon notification of an emergency or disaster situation, Emergency Management Director is responsible for disseminating warnings to the following:

- Selected County Administration personnel;
- Mayors (or designee) of each municipality within the County
- The primary agency contact for each Emergency Support Function.

The Emergency Management Director will report to the EOC to supervise activation procedures for an actual or impending emergency. Key warning personnel will coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions using telephone, radio, email, or any other means necessary and available.

Each Mayor, or their representative, will alert the municipal services in his / her community and supervise the dissemination of warnings in their municipality. The primary agency contact for each ESF will contact all of the support agencies to the ESF. All agencies will notify their personnel to begin activation procedures as described in the ESF Annexes and

implementing SOP's. The County Emergency Operations Center will be activated under the following levels of activation:

1. Levels of Activation

- a) **Level III, Monitoring Activation** - Monitoring will be implemented whenever Emergency Management receives notice of an incident, which may escalate to threaten public safety. During a monitoring activation, Emergency Management will disseminate information to the EOC team via telephone, e-mail, WebEOC and Everbridge.
- b) **Level II - Hazard Specific or Partial Activation-** Activation may be implemented by the County Administrator, Emergency Management Director, or their Designee. Only those ESF's impacted by the hazard or involved in the response will be represented at the EOC.
- c) **Level I - Full Activation-** Full Activation may be implemented for a major incident. All ESF's, the Command Staff, Liaison Group, and Support Staff will be staffed 24 hours a day.

2. Levels of Disaster

St. Johns County Emergency Management has the responsibility to activate the EOC and carry out the policies of the CEMP as directed by the County Administrator under St. Johns County Ordinance 2021-4, whether it is a minor, major or catastrophic disaster of any kind.

The position that may change will be Incident Commander (IC) on the scene of the emergency. For example: Wildfire – Fire Chief would be the IC, Pandemic Influenza – Director of the Health Department would be the IC.

- a) Minor Disaster – A disaster that can be handled with municipal, county, private sector and volunteer resources. Sharing and realignment of assets, personnel and information would be common. There might be a need for some assistance from the state, where there is a shortfall locally of expertise, equipment or personnel. State assistance would be short term. The EOC monitors and could be partially activated.

- b) Major Disaster – A disaster beyond the capabilities of local governments. County, municipal, private and volunteer sectors have resource shortfalls. Some ESF's might be entirely expended. State and most likely federal assistance are needed. The duration of assistance could be long term in some areas. The EOC will be in a partial activation or full activation.
- c) Catastrophic Disaster – A disaster beyond the capabilities of local and state government. All county, municipal, state, private and volunteer sector resources are fully expended. Federal resources may become involved. The duration of assistance will be lengthy. Military personnel might be required. The EOC will be fully activated.

3. Warning to the General Public

St. Johns County must provide the general public with sufficient advance warning time for effective preparation and emergency plans to be implemented. Warning to the public is a concern as there are no local (St. Augustine) television stations. Notice must be coordinated with stations in Jacksonville for television broadcast of emergency messages. The local broadcast capability is through the local AM / FM radio stations and Comcast Cable using EMNet to access the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). The following warning systems are available to disseminate warnings and warning information to the public:

- Everbridge Notification – *Alert St. Johns*
- EMNet – used to access the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)
- GTV (Local Government Television)
- E-mail
- Local Cable – Comcast
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Public Address or Door to Door, if needed
- Public Displays
- Public Speaking Events
- Social Media
- Website at: www.sjcemergencymanagement.org
- Volunteer Radio Groups
- 904-824-5550: St. Johns County Citizens Information Line

F. Emergency Decision Making

Two key elements are essential for making sound emergency decisions, knowing the amount of time that is needed to respond to the emergency and the amount of resources that are needed and available. When making emergency action decisions the following general methodology will be used:

1. For hurricanes, emergency protective actions, such as evacuations, are based on information gathered from Hurrevac, a hurricane tracking program. This information is based on the actual characteristics of the storm (i.e., forward speed of the storm, the distance tropical storm conditions extend from the eye, wind speeds and expected storm surge). Hurrevac uses information input from the National Hurricane Center for a particular storm and then calculates evacuation times based on data from the Northeast Florida Regional Evacuation Study. St. Johns County is a subscriber to Hurrevac and EM Staff has received formal training to use the computer-modeling program. St. Johns County Evacuation times can be found in the Northeast Florida Regional Evacuation Study.⁶
2. The probabilities generated by the National Weather Service (NWS) and National Hurricane Center (NHC), and input into Hurrevac, are based on complex computer weather models.
3. Pre-emergency hazard time is the amount of time between the onset of the event and the actual arrival of hazardous conditions.
4. After determining the total pre-emergency time and the length of time before the arrival of hazardous conditions, a projection is made of when a decision must be reached. This is the decision time.
5. Decision time is the amount of time available before the issuance of protective actions to allow adequate response time for the threatened population.
6. Execution time is the time available that allows for the completion of an emergency action before hazardous conditions are experienced. This would include a mobilization time.
7. During the process of decision making determination for the issuance of protective actions; providing assistance will be based on the following priority:

⁶ Florida Statewide Regional Evacuation Study, Northeast Florida Region, 2010 - is a separate reference and planning document that can be found on file at the Division of Emergency Management.

- a) Life-Threatening circumstances - A problem is directly linked to life threatening circumstances; such situations will receive first priority.
 - b) Protection of Property - A threat exists for large-scale damage to property.
8. Operational responses to the above situations will be based upon the following:
- a) Availability of Resources: ESF-7, and/or the Logistics Section, must assess the availability of resources, consider anticipated problems and identify the most effective method of meeting the request.
 - b) Location of Resources: ESF-7 and/or Logistics Section staff will identify the closest available resources.
 - c) Arrival Time: ESF-7 and/or Logistics Section staff will estimate the time of arrival of resources.

G. Protective Actions

1. Evacuations

Evacuation is described as a process to withdraw from a place in an organized way especially for protection.

St. Johns County is a coastal county with the Atlantic Ocean as the eastern boundary and the St. Johns River as the western boundary. The County prepares for the possibility of evacuation of the coastal areas, low-lying areas and the mobile homes each hurricane season. St. Johns County's evacuation zones are based on the 2013 Northeast Florida Storm Surge Atlas, created from the data in the Northeast Florida Regional Hurricane Evacuation Study. The St. Johns County Hurricane Evacuation Zone map is available online at www.sjcemergencymanagement.com.

The St. Johns County Evacuation Plan⁷ is a separate planning document and includes more specific and technical information from the Florida Statewide Regional Evacuation Study - Northeast Florida Region – 2013, as listed below:

- Evacuating People Statistics
- Hurricane Hazards
- Authorization

⁷ St. Johns County Evacuation Plan is a separate planning document and can be found in Appendix V

- Warning
- Evacuation Decision Making
- Evacuation Time Requirements
- Evacuation Zones
- Clearance Times
- Checklists
- Maps
- Shelter Data
- Time Delineating Schedule

Most recently, St. Johns County ordered evacuations due to the threat from Hurricanes Matthew (2016), Irma (2017) and Dorian (2019). During these operations the County evacuated vulnerable populations to general population, pet friendly and special needs shelters.

Most evacuations will be local in scope and the EMD will initiate actions following a decision by the Executive Policy Group. In such cases, the actions will be coordinated and administered by emergency response officials using local resources in accordance with operational procedures. The County Administrator of St. Johns County has the authority to implement evacuations of all or part of St. Johns County. This authority would normally be used only in the absence of a quorum on the part of the commissioners. In the absence of the County Administrator, the EMD has the authority to implement a partial or total evacuation of St. Johns County. In this case, the EMD is acting on behalf of the commissioners, pending their approval of the action. The St. Johns County School Superintendent has the authority to order the evacuation of, or closing of schools.

During any population protective actions, including evacuation, that does not require activation of the EOC; St. Johns County Emergency Management will provide assistance under various County agencies' normal statutory authority through coordination and collaboration. However, in the event of a multi-jurisdictional operation, the Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners may issue a declaration of a local state of emergency and evacuation order in support of a municipality. This decision will be made following consultation with the Emergency Management Director and representatives of the jurisdictions involved.

All County assistance and support of such actions will be coordinated from the EOC under the direction of the Emergency Management Director. Decisions on issues, such as deploying and pre-deploying personnel; determining evacuation zones and routes; directing

people caught on evacuation routes to safe shelter; ensuring the sufficiency of fuel; and addressing any matters relative to the ordered protective actions will be made by the Executive Policy Group.

Evacuation Zone and Route Maps are located online at the St. Johns County and St. Johns County Emergency Management websites. Physical copies of the maps are available at libraries, community centers, and other public buildings throughout the County for public access. Regional Evacuation will be coordinated utilizing the current Northeast Florida Regional Evacuation Study Procedure.

2. Sheltering

The opening of shelters is the responsibility of St. Johns County Emergency Management and St. Johns County School District through ESF-6. Passed in May of 2019, St. Johns County Resolution 2019- 150 – *Interlocal Agreement between St. Johns County and the St. Johns County School District* outlines the responsibilities of each agency during sheltering operations. Should a request for sheltering assistance be made to the EOC, it will support the sheltering plan as identified by that support function. The EOC will coordinate through ESF-6 any requests for assistance from other ESF's that will be needed to support multi-jurisdictional shelter operations. The St. Johns County Shelter Coordination Plan⁸ includes detailed shelter information and operations and can be found in Appendix L.

The Superintendent of Schools may close any or all schools should the need arise. The Superintendent, or his designee, will meet with the EMD to discuss the need for hurricane shelters, the impact of closure on the school year and possible reopening dates. Any school closures will be coordinated with input from the Superintendent as a matter of policy.

All shelters are vulnerable to damage or destruction from Category 3 or higher hurricanes. The St. Johns County Hurricane Shelter List can be found within the St. Johns County Shelter Coordination Plan in Appendix L.

Refuges of last resort will be used for temporary and minimal sheltering to evacuees who cannot be accommodated in public shelters. These shelters would not be expected to offer bedding, food/water, medical or other services. The evacuees should be self-supporting. Every attempt will be made to move these evacuees to

⁸ St. Johns County Shelter Coordination Plan is a separate planning document and can be found in Appendix L

public shelters as soon as possible. Sources of refuge would include church buildings, service club buildings, and community centers. Unoccupied office, warehouse or other types of commercial structures may also be utilized.

H. Relief Operations

After the emergency situation has passed, coordination of relief operations such as search and rescue operations, mass casualty activities, the provision of emergency supplies, preliminary damage assessment, emergency debris removal, and emergency restoration of utilities will begin. The EOC will continue to direct management and coordination of all emergency response functions. Emergency relief agencies as well as all levels of government and the responding disaster relief organizations will be represented through various emergency support functions in the Emergency Operations Center.

The primary initial local coordinating agency for requesting resources and relief from State and Federal sources and allocating such supplies within the County will be the Emergency Operations Center. State and Federal Emergency Response Teams will be established and sent, if requested, as soon as possible after the emergency. Ideally, these Emergency Response Teams will be located in St. Johns County at or near the Emergency Operations Center and will carry out all State coordination and assistance functions until the Joint Field Office (JFO) is established.

Municipalities and activated agencies will make requests for immediate relief supplies and resources to the EOC. A primary function of the EOC is to identify and allocate resources as expeditiously and fiscally responsible as possible. Utilizing a single-point ordering system reduces duplication of effort and enables the EOC to assign resources where needed most to stabilize the incident. The EOC will coordinate with ESF's to consolidate all requests and submit a County request to the State when resources cannot be sourced locally. Resource and mission support requests are sent to the State via WebEOC, the incident management software platform used locally and by the Florida Division of Emergency Management. Requests are then triaged and coordinated by the State with the local Point of Contact.

I. Activation of the National Response Framework

When it becomes apparent that the anticipated magnitude and extent of damages will be beyond the capabilities of the County and State, and federal resources will be necessary to supplement local emergency response efforts, the Governor will contact the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Regional Office in Atlanta and request activation of the National Response Framework. Activation of this

plan authorizes the mobilization of federal resources necessary to augment State and local emergency efforts.

FEMA's Emergency Response Team

The Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) will head the Emergency Response Team (ERT). The ERT is composed of the FCO, FEMA program and support staff, and representatives from each of the 15 federal ESF's. The responsibilities of the ERT include:

1. Coordinating overall federal response and emergency response activities to the County.
2. Working with the County to determine support requirements and to coordinate those requirements with the ESF's.
3. Tasking the ESF's or any other federal agency to perform missions in support of the County. Upon their arrival, the team leader and ESF's will receive an operational briefing from the Emergency Management Director and be assigned space from which to conduct their activities. Once this is completed, federal ESF staff will establish contact with their counterparts on the County and State ESF's to coordinate the provision of federal assistance to meet resource needs, which exceed the capability of the State and affected local governments.

IV. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

It is the intent of this policy to provide guidance for basic financial management to all departments and agencies responding under the provisions of the plan. Additionally, to ensure those funds are provided expeditiously and those financial operations are conducted in accordance with appropriate policies, regulations and standards.

A. Assumptions

1. Due to the nature of most emergency situations, finance operations will often be carried out with compressed time frames and other pressures, necessitating the use of non-routine procedures. This, in no way, lessens the requirements of sound financial management and accountability.
2. A Presidential Disaster or Emergency Declaration will permit funding from the Federal Disaster Relief Fund under the provisions of the Stafford Act in addition to the financial resources initiated at the local and state levels.

B. Expenditure of Funds

Timely financial support of response activities may be crucial to saving lives and property. While innovative and expeditious means of procurement are called for during times of emergencies, it is still mandatory that good accounting principles and practices be employed in order to safeguard the use of public funds from the potential of fraud, waste and abuse.

1. In concert with federal guidelines, officials of the primary and support agencies will give approval for expenditure of funds for response operations. Each agency is responsible for establishing effective administrative controls of funds and segregation of duties for proper internal controls, and to ensure that actions taken and costs incurred are consistent with the missions identified in this plan.
2. Extreme care and attention to detail must be taken throughout the emergency response period to maintain logs, formal records and file copies of all expenditures (including personnel time sheets, purchase orders (PO's), credit cards, receipts, completed ICS Forms) in order to provide clear and reasonable accountability and justification for future reimbursement requests. Reimbursement is NOT guaranteed, as a result, as much deliberative prudence as time and circumstances allow should be used.
3. St. Johns County Emergency Management in conjunction with the Disaster Recovery Department and Office of Management and Budget will coordinate a training schedule for emergency event financial reporting and records maintenance requirements to coincide with Emergency Management's annual training and exercise schedule.
4. All records relating to the allocation and disbursement of funds pertaining to activities and elements covered in this plan must be maintained, as applicable, in compliance with:
 - a) The Code of Federal Regulations - Title 44 Emergency Management and Assistance (CFR 44); relevant Circulars and Federal Statutes, in a manner consistent with provisions of the Federal Stafford Act
 - b) Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, relating specifically to emergency management powers and responsibilities of local government.
 - c) The County and Municipal Finance Divisions.

- d) The *Handbook for Disaster Assistance, Pocket Guide for Public Assistance and Pocket Guide for Individual Assistance*, each created by the Florida Division of Emergency Management, has been prepared to provide basic information and instructions. This handbook can be obtained from St. Johns County Emergency Management.
 - e) The *Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide*, Federal Emergency Management Agency, defining policies and procedures for the Public Assistance Program. This handbook can be obtained on the FEMA website.
5. The preservation of vital records for the continuation of County government will be the responsibility of Department Heads and Constitutional Officers. Records are stored in a variety of locations including County Warehouses, the EOC and digital storage of records is located in data centers in several states to insure the preservation of vital records pre and post disaster.
 6. The Finance Director is responsible for implementing, maintaining and tracking all financial projects and matters during and after a disaster with assistance from the Disaster Recovery Department and Emergency Management staff as needed.
 7. All funding agreements will be presented to the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners by resolution and will authorize the County Administrator to execute funding agreements with other legal entities on behalf of the County.
 8. Funding sources are available and include the following:
 - Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance (EMPA) Trust Fund
 - Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
 - St. Johns County General Fund and Reserves
 - Public Assistance
 - Individual Assistance
 - Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program
 - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
 - Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery
 - Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation

Each of these funding sources will be administered by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners through Resolution authorizing the County Administrator to use funds according to pre-established guidelines that will meet the funding requirements of local, state and federal funding.

9. Mutual Aid requests for St. Johns County are coordinated through St. Johns County Emergency Management as referenced in the State Wide Mutual Aid Agreement. Conversely, any request from outside St. Johns County will be coordinated through Emergency Management as referenced in the State Wide Mutual Aid Agreement. The Clerk of the Court will maintain original agreements with working copies at the department level. St. Johns County, the City of St. Augustine and the City of St. Augustine Beach are signatories to the State Wide Mutual Aid Agreement. The EMD has responsibility for overseeing the mutual aid process in a disaster.

St. Johns County has responded to Mutual Aid requests from other counties including EM staff, EMS units, fire apparatus, law enforcement assets and Incident Management Team personnel. The documentation used to bill the receiving County included time sheets, travel logs, receipts, completed ICS Forms, and SMAA Form-B. This is the minimum documentation required by St. Johns County.

10. Each municipality in St. Johns County is responsible for their own financial management during a disaster. St. Johns County will offer guidance on policies, regulations and standards to the municipalities to ensure that expenditures are disaster related and can be included in the FEMA reimbursement process. Participation and completion of municipality specific Preliminary Damage Assessments will aid in the thorough documentation and identification of disaster related damages and expenses.

The municipalities will be notified of each meeting on the PA process (if declared) and necessary steps to take in the reimbursement process.

V. TRAINING

A. General

This section will outline a training program that will ensure that emergency responders and the public fully understand the overall concept of Emergency Management and their responsibilities before, during and after an emergency / disaster. Training will follow the National Incident Management System and use FEMA's Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program to conduct all exercises.

B. Concept of Operations

1. General

- a) St. Johns County Emergency Management has prepared a training program to provide guidance for local governments to improve their capability for mitigation activities as well as respond effectively to, and recover from an emergency or disaster. See Training Program, Appendix E.
- b) The training program shall have three dimensions:
 - a. Programs and courses available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (ICS), the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC), the State and other governmental / volunteer agencies.
 - b. Local departmental emergency response training.
 - c. Community based awareness, self-help, population protection procedures, and public awareness training for the general public.

2. Phases of Management

- a) Mitigation / Preparedness Training
 - a. Division / Agency heads will designate Emergency Coordinators within their organization.
 - b. Division / Agency heads and Emergency Coordinators will participate in Emergency Management training to better prepare their organizations for responding to emergencies/disasters.
 - c. Divisions / Agencies will identify needed Emergency Management training and request it from St. Johns County Emergency Management.
 - d. All divisions / agencies are encouraged to budget for training and exercising.
- b) Response Training
 - a. The Emergency Management Institute and the Florida Division of Emergency Management provide residence training for law enforcement, medical, fire services, utilities and emergency management personnel, as well as local

appointed officials and their staffs.

- b. Resident training at the Emergency Management Institute is encouraged for response groups from the jurisdictions to better understand the Integrated Comprehensive Emergency Management concept and the local Plan.
- c. The objectives of Emergency Management training are to develop team skills for the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center; field operations; information systems; technical information related to hazard mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery; and roles and responsibilities of all levels of government and the private sector in the event of emergencies or disasters.
- d. Group training is encouraged for the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center staff, Executive Policy Group, individuals, information officers, all government division / department heads and their Emergency Coordinators, damage assessment teams, school district personnel, medical / health, institutional personnel, volunteers, communications / dispatchers, etc.
- e. Internal training consists of the concepts of field operations and key components of the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. An overview of the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and training is essential to departments / agencies in developing their department's emergency procedures.
- f. Internal training should be done on-site and in-groups.
- g. Community awareness programs are provided to train citizens as to what actions are expected of them before, during and after an emergency / disaster.
- h. Preparing citizens for protective action and self-help practices immediately following a disaster is part of the Emergency Management training program.
- i. The Emergency Management training program encourages members of all groups to take advantage of available training.
- j. Exercises

i. General

"Exercising" is the primary way to activate, test and evaluate the components of the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and to determine if the plan will work in an actual emergency / disaster situation.

ii. There are four principal reasons for conducting exercises:

- 1). To detect deficiencies in a plan.
- 2). To detect deficiencies in the overall system.
- 3). To identify training needs.
- 4). To identify gaps relative to function and operation of equipment.

iii. Progressive Exercising

- 1) Discussion-based exercises including seminars, workshops, tabletop exercises, and games are designed to detect potential gaps with coordination, to determine the appropriateness of assigned responsibilities and to achieve a certain level of familiarity of a plan.
- 2) Operations-based exercises including drills, functional exercises and full-scale are more complex and are designed to test multiple functions, such as direction and control, decision making, warning, public information or recovery.
- 3) Full-scale exercises are the highest level of exercise. It is the culmination of the exercise program, designed to evaluate the operational capability of the emergency management system over a substantial period of time. It tests major components and sub-components of the plan.

iv. Exercise Requirements for Every Jurisdiction

Each of the municipalities in St. Johns County is responsible by law for the safety and welfare of its citizens. Training should therefore involve the utilization of all municipal as well as County capabilities in a coordinated effort in accordance with individual plans and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's).

- 1) St. Johns County Emergency Management will conduct an annual exercise, which will incorporate the participation of all county agencies and municipalities, utilizing the St. Johns County CEMP as a guide.
 - 2) A functional exercise is to be conducted once every three years, in a four-year period.
 - 3) A full-scale exercise is required every four years. A Level 1 Activation of the EOC can substitute for a full-scale exercise, with the development of an After Action Report (AAR) and Improvement Plan (IP), according to HSEEP guidelines.
 - 4) An evaluation of exercises in compliance with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program will be completed for the purpose of plan revisions and improvements. Deficiencies will be noted and a corrective action plan will be created to address these deficiencies.
- c) Recovery
- a. Recovery exercises complete the process of exercising the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Recovery exercises are designed to fit the format from tabletop to full-scale exercises.
 - b. Individual and departmental evaluations of exercise performance are used to determine internal training requirements.
 - c. Group and individual training at the Emergency Management Institute may be scheduled. These courses cover natural and technological hazards, as well as event specific courses.

C. Responsibilities

1. St. Johns County Emergency Management is responsible for ensuring the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center staff and operational responders fully understand their procedures and responsibilities, as outlined in the St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
2. Training and scheduling of training for Emergency Management purposes will be coordinated through St. Johns County Emergency Management.
3. Department / Agency heads should budget for, and participate in, training activities related to emergency management.
4. Municipalities: The Mayor (or designee) is responsible for the training of personnel under the jurisdiction of that office. Appropriate personnel should attend training courses offered by Federal, State and local organizations whenever possible.
5. St. Johns County Emergency Management will:
 - a) Coordinate all emergency management related training within the County to ensure that all of the overall objectives of the CEMP are being met. To include:
 - NIMS / Incident Command System Training
 - Evacuation
 - Shelter Management
 - Recovery
 - Debris Management
 - Damage Assessment / Survey 1-2-3
 - WebEOC
 - Logistics / Point of Distribution Management
 - b) Assist County departments and agencies, municipalities, and non-governmental disaster agencies as required, in attaining coordinated training and education objectives.
 - c) Utilize to the fullest extent possible all available means to reach the maximum number of County residents to provide sufficient public information with which to develop individual plans:

- Booklets, pamphlets, and brochures for public distribution;
 - Website and Social Media preparedness content;
 - Lectures and seminars relating to personal disaster preparation;
 - Local public information spots on radio and television.
- d) Conduct exercises, in compliance with HSEEP, to evaluate components of the CEMP. Upon completion of exercises an evaluation will be conducted and an After Action Report will be developed. From this after action report a corrective action plan will be created to address identified gaps. Procedures, planning documents and training will be modified to correct the deficiencies as soon after the exercise as is possible
6. Those agencies or departments having primary and support responsibilities for ESF's will establish training programs covering their respective responsibilities, in accordance with approved ESF Annexes and SOP's. Any personnel required to work in the EOC during activation periods will be required to have ICS 100 and ICS 700 training.
7. Further information is located in Appendix E, Training.

VI. REFERENCE AND AUTHORITIES

Ultimate responsibility for the protection of life and property and the preservation of public peace, health and safety lies with local governments. The authority for local governments to respond to situations and take actions necessary to safeguard the life and property of its citizens is set forth in the following regulations.

A. St. Johns County

1. Chapter 252.38, Florida Statutes delineates the emergency management responsibilities of political subdivisions in safeguarding the life and property of citizens and other persons within the political subdivision. Key points within the statutes are listed below.
- a) St. Johns County shall perform emergency management functions within the territorial limits of St. Johns County and conduct those activities pursuant to 252.31 – 252.90, and in accordance with state and county emergency management plans and mutual aid agreements. St. Johns County has the authority to establish, as necessary, a primary and one or more secondary emergency operating centers (EOC's) to

provide continuity of government, and direction and control of emergency operations.

- b) St. Johns County has the power to appropriate and expend funds; make contracts; obtain and distribute equipment, materials and supplies for emergency management purposes; provide for the health and safety of persons and property, including assistance to survivors of any emergency; and direct and coordinate the development of emergency management plans and programs in accordance with the policies and plans set forth by federal and state emergency management agencies.
- c) St. Johns County has the authority to request state assistance or invoke emergency related mutual aid assistance by declaring a local state of emergency. The duration of the local state of emergency shall be limited to 7 days, and it may be extended as necessary in 7-day increments. St. Johns County participates in the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreements (SMAA) in existence. The county also has the power and authority to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of St. Johns County by law, pertaining to:
- Performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community.
 - Entering into contracts and incurring obligations.
 - Employment of permanent and temporary workers.
 - Utilization of volunteers.
 - Rental of equipment.
 - Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials and facilities.
 - Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.
- d) St. Johns County recognizes the right of municipalities within the County to establish their own emergency management plans and programs. Those municipalities establishing emergency management programs will coordinate their activities and programs with St. Johns County Emergency Management in accordance with 252.38 (2) Florida Statutes.
2. St. Johns County Emergency Management serves the entire county. It is the responsibility of St. Johns County to establish and maintain an emergency management agency, develop a comprehensive emergency management plan and program that is consistent with

the state comprehensive emergency management plan and program.

3. St. Johns County Emergency Management will review emergency management plans required of external agencies and institutions.
4. St. Johns County School District will, during a declared local state of emergency and upon the request of the Emergency Management Director participate by providing facilities and personnel to staff those facilities per St. Johns County Resolution No. 2019-150. St. Johns County School District will, when providing transportation assistance, coordinate the use of vehicles and personnel with Emergency Support Function 1, Transportation.

B. Ordinances and Administrative Rules

1. The following ordinances and administrative rules apply to St. Johns County Emergency Management Activities:

Chapter 1 - Definitions
Chapter 7 - County Boundaries
Chapter 14 - Title IV, Executive Branch, Governor
Chapter 22 - Emergency Continuity of Government
Chapter 23 - Florida Statutes, as amended by Chapter 93-211, Laws of Florida
Chapter 30 - Sheriffs
Chapter 73 - Eminent Domain
Chapter 74 - Proceedings Supplemental to Eminent Domain
Chapter 125 - County Government
Chapter 162 - County or Municipal Code Enforcement
Chapter 165 - Title XII, Municipalities, Formation of Local Governments
Chapter 166 - Municipalities
Chapter 154 - Public Health Facilities
Chapter 161 - Beach and Shore Preservation; Part III, Coastal Zone Preservation
Chapter 163 - Intergovernmental Programs; Part I, Miscellaneous Programs
Chapter 166 - Municipalities
Chapter 187 - State Comprehensive Plan
Chapter 252 - Emergency Management
Chapter 321 - Highway Patrol
Chapter 380 - Land and Water Development
Chapter 381 - Title XXIX, Public Health
Chapter 401 - Medical Communications and Transportation
Chapter 403 - Environmental Control

Chapter 404 - Radiation
Chapter 406 - Medical Examiners
Chapter 409 - Social Welfare
Chapter 427 - Transportation Services
Chapter 553 - Building Construction Standards
Chapter 768 - Good Samaritan Act
Chapter 870 - Affrays, Riots, Routs and unlawful assemblies

2. Federal Law

- a) Public Law 106-390, as amended, Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, which provides authority for response assistance under the Federal Response Framework, and which empowers the President to direct any federal agency to utilize its authorities and resources in support of state and local assistance efforts.
- b) Public Law 100-707, Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, constitutes the statutory authority for most Federal disaster response activities especially as they pertain to FEMA and FEMA programs.
- c) Public Law 93-234, Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended, provides insurance coverage for all types of buildings.
- d) Public Law 81-290, the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, as amended, provides a system for joint capability building at the federal, state and local levels for all types of hazards.
- e) Public Law 99-499, Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, which governs hazardous materials planning and right-to-know.
- f) Public Law 101-615, Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act (HMTUSA), which provides funding to improve capability to respond to hazardous materials incidents.
- g) Public Law 95-510, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) as amended, which requires facilities to notify authorities of accidental releases of hazardous materials.
- h) Public Law 101-549, Clean Air Amendments of 1990, which provides for reductions in pollutants.
- i) Public Law 85-256, Price-Anderson Act, which provides for a system of compensating the public for harm caused by a nuclear accident.
- j) Public Law 84-99 (33 USC 701n), Flood Emergencies, authorizing an emergency fund for flood emergency preparation, flood fighting and rescue operations, or repair

and restoration of flood control works threatened or destroyed by flood.

- k) Public Law 91-671, Food Stamp Act of 1964, in conjunction with section 412 of the Stafford Act, relating to food stamp distributions after a major disaster.
- l) Public Law 89-665 (16 USC 470 et seq), National Historic Preservation Act, relating to the preservation of historic resources damaged as a result of disasters.
- m) Public Law 110-325 (Title 42, chapter 126 and Title 47, chapter 5 of the USC) Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities.
- n) Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11331-11352, Federal Emergency Management and Shelter Program.
- o) National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, (42 USC 4001 et seq.) and Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973
- p) Public Law 109-308 (Section 613 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act [42 U.S.C 5196b] as amended) Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006
- q) Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 and Disaster Relief Appropriations Act. The law authorizes several significant changes to the way FEMA may deliver federal disaster assistance to survivors.

3. State of Florida

- a) Florida Statute 252 - Florida Emergency Management Act
- b) Florida Administrative Code - Rules 27P 2, 6, 11, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22

4. Federal Programs and Directives

- a) CFR 44 Parts 59-76, National Flood Insurance Program and related programs.
- b) CFR 44 Part 13 (The Common Rule), Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements.
- c) CFR 44 Part 206, Federal Disaster Assistance for Disasters Declared after November 23, 1988.
- d) CFR 44 Part 10, Environmental Conditions.
- e) CFR 44 Part 14, Audits of State and Local Governments.
- f) HSPD – 5, Homeland Security Presidential Directive
- g) HSPD – 8, Homeland Security Presidential Directive
- h) National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- i) National Response Framework (NRF)

- j) National Incident Management Capability Assessment Tool (NIMSCAST)
5. St. Johns County Ordinances and Resolutions
- a) St. Johns County Comprehensive Plan, as amended.
 - b) St. Johns County Ordinance No. 2021-4
 - c) St. Johns County Resolution No. 2006-301
 - d) St. Johns County Resolution No. 2005-255
 - e) St. Johns County Resolution No. 2019-150
 - f) Declaration of a Local State of Emergency
 - g) A sample copy of a local resolution for declaring a Local State of Emergency is contained in Appendix N
 - h) Local Mitigation Strategy – most recent FEMA approved version 2020.
 - i) 2020 (updated yearly) Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement
6. References that apply to the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan:
- a) St. Johns County LMS
 - b) St. Johns County COOP / COG
 - c) St. Johns County Terrorism Annex
 - d) St. Johns County Hazardous Materials Plan
 - e) Northeast Florida Regional Evacuation Study 2013
 - f) United States Census 2010 / 2018 Census Estimates
 - g) St. Johns County Sheriff's Office ETD Manuals
 - h) St. Johns County Fire / Rescue policy Manuals
 - i) St. Johns County Logistics Strategy
 - j) St. Johns County Temporary Housing Plan
 - k) St. Johns County Evacuation Plan
 - l) St. Johns County Shelter Plan
 - m) St. Johns County Debris Management Plan
 - n) St. Johns County Damage Assessment Plan
 - o) St. Johns County Fire / Rescue Communications SOP
 - p) National Response Framework
 - q) Duval County CEMP
 - r) Clay County CEMP

VII. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

A. Governor

Under the provisions of Section 252.36, Florida Statutes, the Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers presented to the state and its people by emergencies. In the event of an emergency beyond the control or

capability of local governments, the Governor may assume direct operational control over all or any part of the emergency management functions within the state. Pursuant to the authority vested in that position under Section 252.36, the Governor may:

1. Declare a State of Emergency to exist through the issuance of an Executive Order or Proclamation.
2. Activate the response, recovery and mitigation components of existing state and local emergency plans.
3. Serve as Commander in Chief of the organized and voluntary militia and of all other forces available for emergency duty.
4. Authorize the deployment and use of any forces, supplies, materials, equipment and facilities necessary to implement emergency plans.
5. Suspend the provisions of any regulation, statute, order or rule prescribing the procedures for conducting government business if compliance would in any way hinder or delay necessary emergency actions.
6. Utilize all available resources of the state and local governments, as reasonably necessary to cope with the emergency.
7. Transfer the direction, personnel and functions of state agencies to assist in emergency operations.
8. Commandeer or utilize any private property necessary to cope with the emergency.
9. Direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from any threatened or stricken area.
10. Prescribe routes, modes of transportation, and destinations for evacuees.
11. Control ingress and egress to and from an emergency area, the movement of persons within the area, and occupancy of premises therein.
12. Suspend or limit the sale, dispensing or transportation of alcoholic beverages, firearms, explosives or combustibles.
13. Make provisions for the availability of temporary emergency housing.

B. Governor's Authorized Representative

Section 252.36, Florida Statutes, authorizes the Governor to delegate or otherwise assign his command authority and emergency powers as deemed prudent. The Governor has appointed the State Coordinating Officer (Florida Director of Emergency Management) as his authorized representative, to act on his behalf in carrying out the provisions of Chapter 252, Florida Statutes. While these authorities are statutorily assigned to the governor and/or his designee.

C. Board of County Commissioners

Under the provisions of Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, the Board of County Commissioners is responsible for safeguarding the life and property of the citizens of St. Johns County, and to provide for the effective and orderly governmental control and coordination of emergency operations. For the purpose of effectively carrying out these emergency responsibilities the Board has delegated these authorities to the Emergency Management Director and / or his designee.

On April 14, 1980, Governor Graham issued Executive Order No. 80-29.5. Section 4 of the order provides in part that: "Political subdivisions of the state (counties) shall, and municipalities may, by interlocal agreement or otherwise, take pre-emergency action as prescribed in Chapter 252. Thus a Board of County Commissioners, acting through the director of the county emergency management agency, is authorized by Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and Executive Order No. 80-29, Office of the Governor, to order the evacuation of persons from areas of the county threatened by an imminent natural or manmade disaster in the absence of a directive from the Governor.

D. Director of Emergency Management

Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, directs each county to establish an Emergency Management Agency and appoint a Director to carry out the provisions of section 252.31 - 252.60. The St. Johns County Emergency Management Director is the designated Emergency Manager for the County. In this capacity, the Director is directly and solely responsible for:

1. Organization, administration and operation of the Emergency Management Agency, the County Emergency Operations Center and other related operational facilities.
2. Serves in the capacity of advisor to the Board of County Commissioners during emergency or disaster operations.

3. Coordinator of activities, services, training and programs for emergency planning and emergency response throughout St. Johns County.
4. Maintaining liaison with State, Federal and other local Emergency Management Agencies.
5. Development and maintenance of operational planning for emergency responses.
6. Instituting training programs and public information programs.
7. Ascertaining the requirements of the County in order to implement emergency response operations.
8. Taking all emergency preparedness actions necessary, including the partial or full emergency mobilization of agencies of county and municipal governments in advance.
9. Cooperating with the Florida Division of Emergency Management and all other State, Federal and relief agencies in matters pertaining to emergency management.
10. Taking measures to carry out requests from municipalities, agencies, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, or Federal agencies for any appropriate emergency management activity.
11. Implement actions deemed necessary by the Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners.

E. Direction and Control of Daily Operations

St. Johns County Emergency Management, Emergency Management Director, during normal operations shall report directly to the Assistant County Administrator. The Emergency Management Director will oversee the normal day-to-day operations of Emergency Management. See the St. Johns County Emergency Management Organization Chart in Appendix A.

F. Additional Direction and Control Policies

1. The Chairperson of the St. Johns County Board of Commissioners and the City Commissions of incorporated jurisdictions has the responsibility and authority to direct and control emergency / disaster operations in their jurisdictions.

2. Municipalities, pursuant to F.S. Chapter 252.38, legally constituted, may establish emergency management programs and develop emergency management plans in conformance with Federal, State and County plans. Public officials in these municipalities are responsible to provide policy guidance in the administration of emergency management programs in their respective jurisdictions. The municipalities' command and control operations will be supported by the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center.
3. The Emergency Management Director will serve as senior liaison officer for St. Johns County when coordinating with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the Florida National Guard and federal resources.
4. When the provisions of this are in effect, centralized direction and control of all emergency / disaster operations will be coordinated through the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center.
5. The Emergency Management Director, when required to ensure quick response to an actual or impending emergency / disaster, will activate appropriate portions of this plan.
6. The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is responsible for making decisions regarding the governance of the County. Each county department reports to the County Administrator. Within this structure, St. Johns County Emergency Management is responsible for all aspects of emergency management including preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. The day-to-day management structure is depicted in the St. Johns County Organization Chart Appendix A.
7. A copy of the State Wide Mutual Aid Agreement is included in the Appendix Q.

G. St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center Team Organization

In order to facilitate the Emergency Support Function (ESF) concept, the organizational structure has been designed to correspond with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners, through their designee, the Emergency Management Director, will be the Incident Commander in the EOC during emergency situations. See Organizational Charts, Appendix A.

1. The organizational structure depicted in the Organizational Charts in Appendix A is established to ensure the effective coordination of resources and information during emergency response and recovery

operations and collectively represents the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center Team. The National Incident Management System contains functional responsibilities that can be matched with corresponding Emergency Support Functions in the Florida CEMP, and mirrored in the St. Johns County CEMP. In St. Johns County, depending on the scope of the disaster, one agency may be responsible for several tasks, each represented by a different ESF in the State and County CEMP. For example, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office supports ESF-9, Search and Rescue and is the lead agency for ESF-16, Law Enforcement. The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office also provides support for several other agencies during emergency operations.

2. To ensure continuous leadership authority and responsibility during emergency situations, a Line of Succession has been established by County Ordinance 2021-4. This line succession is illustrated in the St. Johns County Organizational Chart in Appendix A.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT PLAN

2021

Annex I
Recovery



I. INTRODUCTION

Following a disaster many critical post-disaster issues will have to be addressed. Resolution of these issues will require a coordinated local, state and federal effort. The recovery section establishes a detailed framework of federal and state government support for local government efforts to restore essential public and social services following a disaster. Much of this support involves the coordination and administration of federal disaster assistance. This section will outline the process for assessing the need for and administration of local, state and federal disaster assistance.

Disaster recovery operations illustrate the importance of the recovery period. Public Officials must be prepared to lead the community to recovery (survivors, emergency workers and volunteers), restore utilities, repair infrastructure, and plan for future development, without losing sight of the less visible damage caused by emergencies and disasters.

II. GENERAL

The St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be fully utilized during recovery operations, as such, a Joint Field Office (JFO) may be established to manage, coordinate and direct the response and recovery efforts for joint Federal-State operations following a major event. The Organizational Charts in Appendix A define the assumptions and functions associated with JFO during the Recovery phase. The EOC will serve as the coordination point for establishing the JFO, staging areas, base camps and other sites for coordinated assistance. The center will be established and operated by representatives from appropriate ESF's and other agencies involved in the recovery process. The JFO will be organized along the same lines of responsibility as the state and federal recovery structures.

Direction, control and coordination during the immediate recovery phase focuses on the following types of activities:

- A. Establishment of an inter-county recovery network designed to provide the support for movement of response actions, relief supplies and services into the county.
- B. Allocation and administration of the distribution of emergency supplies including food, water, and other items as deemed necessary.
- C. Managing post-event sheltering operations.
- D. Initiating preliminary damage assessment (air and ground), debris removal and the restoration of utilities.

The primary local coordinating agency for requesting resources within the county is St. Johns County Emergency Management. This function will be performed from the EOC

until directed by the Emergency Management Director to move to the JFO. This transfer to the JFO will only take place when there is sufficient evidence that sustainment of operations is achievable and recovery efforts could be better managed at the JFO.

- A. St. Johns County Emergency Management has the primary responsibility for coordinating recovery efforts. The St. Johns County Emergency Management Director will continue EOC Operations, as the EOC will already be activated for response functions, and will continue to manage the Emergency Operations Center for recovery.
- B. The Emergency Management Director will appoint the local liaison to the Joint Field Office (JFO) and state recovery staff, upon activation of the JFO.
- C. The Emergency Management Director will request the State to participate in establishing a JFO and will appoint a liaison to the State Recovery Staff. Individual ESF's in the EOC and JFO will coordinate with their state counterparts during response and recovery operations. In order to assure the flow of accurate and timely recovery information, and to coordinate relief and recovery efforts, state and federal agencies will be encouraged to have liaisons in the JFO.
 1. The Emergency Management Director will appoint the liaison to coordinate recovery activities with the municipalities. Individual Emergency Support Function's in the EOC and JFO will coordinate with their municipal counterparts during response and recovery operations. In order to assure the flow of accurate and timely recovery information, and to coordinate relief and recovery efforts, municipalities will be encouraged to have liaisons in the JFO.
 2. All recovery activities are coordinated through the Emergency Management Director and begin during the response phase with an evaluation of:
 - a) Situation reports
 - b) Incident Action Plans
 - c) Mission assignments
 - d) WebEOC Resource requests
 - e) Municipal status update reports
 - f) EOC briefings
 - g) Conference calls
 - h) Impact assessment data, as well as other impact information received

These information sources are reviewed and monitored to start the identification of areas that should receive priority for damage assessment and human needs assessment. This gathering of

intelligence sets the stage for the operational transition from response to recovery activities.

3. If St. Johns County receives a Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance the Emergency Management Director will request the Florida Division of Emergency Management to participate in establishing a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) through a WebEOC request or a phone call.

The Emergency Management Director is responsible for the overall coordination and establishment of a Disaster Recovery Center and will serve as the County Recovery Center Coordinator to coordinate with state and federal individual assistance officers in the establishment of the Disaster Recovery Center.

This facility will be established in the area affected by the disaster where families, individuals and businesses can meet face-to-face with representatives from Federal, State, County and Volunteer Agencies to:

- a) Discuss their disaster-related needs
 - b) Obtain information about disaster assistance programs
 - c) Register for assistance
 - d) Update registration information
 - e) Learn about measures for rebuilding that can eliminate or reduce the risk of future loss
 - f) Learn how to complete the SBA loan application
 - g) Request the status of their Applications for Assistance to Individuals and Households.
4. The Coordinator for ESF-14 is the Emergency Public Information Officer (PIO) and is responsible for providing public information and education programs regarding the recovery effort and available local, state and federal assistance. The Emergency PIO will follow procedures established in ESF-14 Public Information SOP for the dissemination of information. Further information can be found in the Emergency Support Function 14 Public Information Section of the CEMP.

Public information programs will use all resources available in reaching the population in St. Johns County. Special efforts will be made to reach the hearing / sight impaired and citizens where English is a second Language or without typical communication outlets.

5. The county utilizes the established process under the Stafford Act as amended by the Disaster Mitigation Act 2002 and Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013, for obtaining and administering state and federal disaster assistance. When the President issues a disaster

declaration that includes St. Johns County, the County will receive notice directly from the Florida Division of Emergency Management and FEMA Disaster Declaration releases. The Emergency Management Director will ensure that this information is transmitted to St. Johns County Administration, SJC Office of Management and Budget, SJC Disaster Recovery Division, municipalities, and other eligible Non-Profits, Houses of Worship, etc. which were affected for coordination of financial reimbursement. Maintaining compliance with procedures for financial transactions, accurate accounting, grants management, document tracking, and payroll procedures will be followed. In coordination with the SJC Disaster Recovery Division, each County agency is responsible for the collection and documentation of reimbursement information, identification of public assistance projects, and submission to SJC Disaster Recovery Division for countywide consolidation and ultimately, submission to FEMA. It is the responsibility of the SJC Disaster Recovery Division to acquire appropriate consultants and additional staffing to implement the public assistance program.

The Emergency Management Director will transmit disaster declaration, recovery assistance information, and technical assistance resources to the municipalities, special taxing districts, and not-for-profit organizations that perform essential governmental services as described in FEMA regulations by conference calls, SJC Emergency Management website, e-mail, media outlets, and other available communication mechanisms.

Each municipality is responsible for identifying public assistance projects. The SJC Disaster Recovery staff will coordinate with the State regarding implementing the appropriate programs authorized by the declaration.

6. The county recovery activities outlined in this section are the same for declared and non-declared disasters with the exception of available federal and / or state resources. Without a federal disaster declaration, financial assistance for survivors is limited and heavy reliance is placed on the Long Term Recovery Organization (LTRO), American Red Cross, Salvation Army, St. Johns County Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), charitable agencies, faith based organizations, donations and insurance coverage. Businesses must depend on insurance coverage or obtain loans/refinancing for recovery. The County and municipal governments must meet infrastructure recovery needs through existing operating funds, insurance, or resort to bond issues to fund disaster recovery. The St. Johns County LTRO and VOAD will be convened to identify survivors' needs and potential recovery assistance.

7. The agencies that have support roles and will be involved in recovery operations are the following:
 - American Red Cross
 - Florida Department of Health
 - Municipalities
 - Salvation Army
 - SJC Clerk of the Court
 - SJC Code Enforcement
 - SJC Development Services
 - SJC Disaster Recovery
 - SJC Fire Rescue
 - SJC Housing and Community Services
 - SJC Health and Human Services
 - SJC Long Term Recovery Organization
 - SJC Parks and Recreation
 - SJC Public Works Department
 - SJC School District
 - SJC Sheriff's Office
 - SJC Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)

III. RECOVERY FUNCTION

Damage assessment is the first and one of the most important steps in the recovery process. It is the basis for determining the type and amount of State and / or Federal financial assistance necessary for recovery and mitigation. An initial impact assessment is conducted during the response and immediate recovery phase to support, if necessary, a request for a gubernatorial State of Emergency declaration and (FDEM) to request a presidential declaration, if warranted.

Damage assessment has a two-fold mission:

- To identify the immediate needs and resources required to assist disaster survivors
- To substantiate requests for supplemental assistance

St. Johns County's capability to conduct its own assessment may be limited due to the extensive damage associated with a catastrophic event. Once local resources have been exhausted requests for support to regional, state and federal partners will be submitted.

A. General

When emergency conditions subside, rapid and thorough assessments must be conducted to perform search and rescue operations for disaster survivors; to assess the overall damage to homes and businesses within the affected areas; to assess the overall damage to critical public facilities

and infrastructure; and to determine whether those damages are sufficient to warrant supplemental federal disaster assistance.

The recovery response to an emergency will be based upon the assessment of lives impacted, public and private property losses, emergency protective actions taken to alleviate the situation, and the expenditures committed to that effort. In order to determine the magnitude of the emergency and the degree of assistance necessary, the recovery team at the EOC must have information concerning property damage and operational costs as soon as possible after the emergency occurrence. Initial assessments may indicate necessity for outside assistance, including possible requests for Presidential Disaster Declaration.

In a catastrophic disaster when damage assessment has been waived, information and data on damages must still be compiled for briefings, planning for additional recovery resources, and prioritizing recovery efforts.

B. Responsibilities

Emergency Management

1. Provides damage assessment training as described in the Basic Plan.
2. Collects and consolidates initial damage assessment reports.
3. Transmits damage assessment information to the State Emergency Operations Center via WebEOC, or as instructed by FDEM.
4. Requests technical assistance if damage assessment is beyond county capabilities.
5. Coordinates with state, federal and other damage assessment teams.
6. Contacts Damage Assessment Team leads to report to Staging Area for deployment.
7. Develops public/private damage assessment standard operating guidelines and checklists.

St. Johns County Code Enforcement

Will act as lead agency in conducting damage assessment of private property and businesses as well as public property and infrastructure.

1. Ensures damage assessment teams are properly trained and equipped.
2. Coordinates damage assessment information received from private property and businesses.
3. Assigns damage assessment teams to impact areas.
4. Monitors threshold amounts for affected, minor, major and destroyed properties.

5. Provides residents with information regarding recovery assistance, informing residents of available services, location of the Disaster Recovery Center, distribution of informational brochures, etc.
6. Obtains property assessment information for team members.
7. Assists the SJC Building Department in determining damage assessment values for private property.
8. Coordinates all damage assessment information to the EOC via Survey 123, paper forms and other modes as necessary.

C. Initial Impact and Damage Assessment

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, St. Johns County will conduct a countywide initial impact assessment. The goal of this assessment is to determine the magnitude and severity of damage to structures and infrastructure.

This initial damage assessment determines whether more detailed damage assessments are necessary and identifies those areas where further efforts should be concentrated. The initial damage assessment is conducted using Survey 123 and reported to the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center within twelve hours of the event by all County departments, municipalities and eligible private nonprofit agencies. The results are mapped by the St. Johns County Geographic Information System Division using color-coded categories. The information is then compiled on a Flash Report, Situation Report or Initial Damage Assessment Report and submitted to the State EOC via WebEOC, or other mode as determined by FDEM.

From the initial damage assessments, a "quick dollar estimate" of the damages will be derived based on certain assumptions predetermined by the damage assessment team in the St. Johns EOC. The team will also make damage estimates, in consultation with the SJC Building Department, from the property values according to the Property Appraisers records, and standard rates for labor and equipment.

If the preliminary damage assessment indicates that the damage is severe and widespread, a gubernatorial declaration of a State of Emergency may be possible without a detailed written damage assessment. In that case state and federal teams may be dispatched to assist in completing the damage assessment.

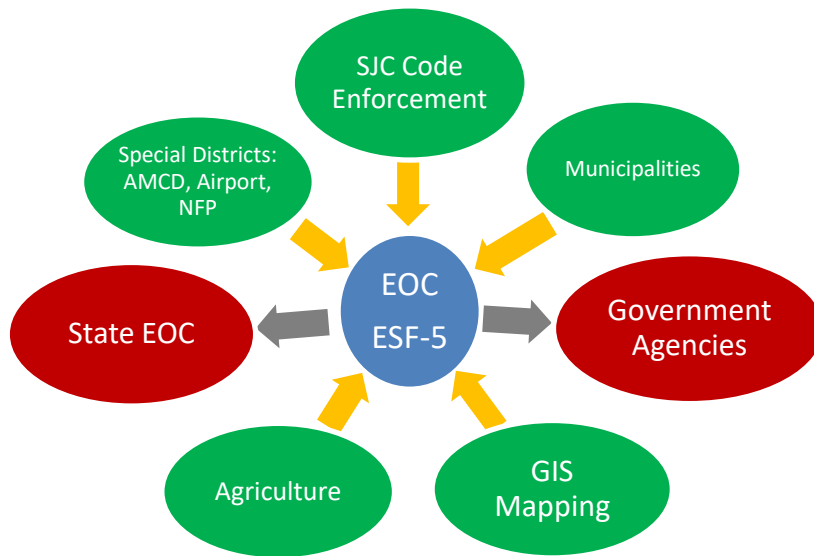
The impact assessment data provides a countywide general overview of the most significantly impacted areas and, therefore establishes a prioritization mechanism for damage assessment team deployment, resource allocation, and disaster assistance. If outside assistance will be required, the initial

damage assessment may be used as the basis for a declaration of a local state of emergency (LSE).

D. Preliminary Damage Assessment

A preliminary damage assessment is needed to quickly assess life safety needs, magnitude of the disaster and eligibility for state and federal aid. Damage assessment is accomplished in phases. Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) scans the affected area to determine the width and breadth of damage, looking at critical facilities and infrastructure to determine the immediate life safety needs.

St. Johns County Emergency Management is the county’s single point for receiving damage assessment reports, evaluating information and determining the disaster magnitude. St. Johns County Code Enforcement provides the information and analysis support for damage assessment. This agency will provide a graphic depiction of damage levels as well as monetary damage assessments.



The St. Johns County Damage Assessment Team Leader has assigned teams, augmented with out-of-county mutual aid if necessary, to perform a “structure by structure” damage assessment. St. Johns County agencies use Survey 123 to document and ensure damage assessment procedures are standardized. As information is received, the SJC Damage Assessment lead uses computer analysis to determine dollar cost damage and mapping. This information can provide complete damage analysis support for the county.

Information is collected and evaluated, using State Damage Assessment Forms, Situation Reports, and other means and is shared with State and Federal officials as necessary. St. Johns County Emergency Management, working with St. Johns County Code Enforcement, SJC Building Department and Damage Assessment Teams, produces a preliminary damage assessment for St. Johns County to be submitted to the State and FEMA. This assessment is formatted using State Damage Assessment Forms to facilitate rapid dissemination of information.

If it is apparent that a Presidential disaster declaration may be necessary to assist in the recovery of the impacted area, St. Johns County will make a request for a formal Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (JPDA) team to the State of Florida through WebEOC. The State will contact the FEMA Regional Office and request a joint Federal and State Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA). Local government representatives should be included, if possible. Together, the team will conduct a thorough assessment of the impacted area to determine the extent of the disaster, its impact on individuals and public facilities, and the types of federal assistance that may be needed. This information is included in the Governor's request to show that the disaster is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments and that supplemental federal assistance is necessary.

E. Public Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessment

The Preliminary Damage Assessment will include an assessment of the county including Public facilities and private property to determine what type of federal assistance may be available to the County. The previously mentioned procedures will be followed in requesting formal PDA's Teams for St. Johns County. The team will conduct a thorough assessment of the impacted area to determine the extent of the disaster, its impact on individuals and public facilities, and the types of federal assistance that may be needed.

Assistance to local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities, may include the following categories:

- A - Debris removal
- B - Emergency protective measures
- C – Roads and bridges
- D – Water control facilities
- E – Buildings and equipment
- F – Utilities
- G – Parks, recreational and other facilities

The cost of damage to the above mentioned categories will be collected by the EOC and submitted to SJC Disaster Recovery for consolidation and aggregation for submission to the State and input into Florida PA for project management as applicable.

The PDA Team will evaluate the following public facilities and services to determine if a Public Assistance Declaration will be authorized:

- Access points to the disaster area(s)
- Boundaries of the disaster area(s)
- Damage to parks, recreational sites and beaches
- Damage to private and public utilities (i.e. - water and wastewater systems, electric and phone services, natural gas delivery systems, etc.)
- Damage to public buildings and equipment
- Damage to roads, streets and bridges
- Damage to water control facilities (i.e. - drainage systems, dikes, levees).
- Disaster casualty information
- Major resource needs / shortfalls
- Resources needed to accomplish emergency debris removal to clear major roadways
- Shelter / mass care information
- Status of communications systems
- Status of critical facilities
- Status of medical systems
- Status of transportation systems

F. Individual and Business Preliminary Damage Assessment

Individual and business preliminary damage assessment is essential to gauge the overall effects of the emergency or disaster on individuals and the economic damage. This information is vital in supporting requests for federal disaster assistance in the form of Individual Assistance or Small Business Administration disaster assistance loans. Many times the information needed may not be readily available during the actual preliminary damage assessment, and may need to be collected in follow-up damage assessment and project worksheet processes.

Not all programs, however, are activated for every disaster. The determination of which programs are authorized is based on the types of assistance specified in the Governor's request and the needs identified during the joint PDA and subsequent PDAs. Individual Assistance is assistance to individuals and households, which may include:

- Food For Florida

- Transitional Sheltering Assistance
- Individuals and Households Program
- Crisis Counseling Program
- Disaster Case Management
- Disaster Unemployment Assistance
- Disaster Legal Services
- Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Individual Assistance Damage Assessment Teams will be requested from the State of Florida via WebEOC. These teams will be composed of State, Federal, County and / or municipal officials working as a team to conduct the assessment of a specified area or location to determine damages to individuals and businesses. St. Johns County Code Enforcement is the overall coordinator of Damage Assessment Teams. The teams will use Survey 123 and Damage Assessment Forms identified for Individual, Business, and Public Assistance, each being color coded for ease of use in the field. All teams will report Damage Assessment to the Emergency Operations Center. Teams should make the following determinations:

1. Private Residences and Businesses

- a) Primary versus secondary residences – Secondary homes are not eligible for disaster assistance.
- b) Homeowner or rental property – Homeowners are eligible for assistance for losses to both property and contents, whereas renters may only be eligible for losses to contents.
- c) Extent of damage – There are five levels of damage:
 - Destroyed – Structure is a total loss, permanently uninhabitable
 - Major – Structure has sustained structural or significant damage and uninhabitable
 - Minor – Structure is damaged and uninhabitable
 - Affected – Structure has received minimal damage and is habitable without repairs
 - Inaccessible – Structures exist in an area that the team or resident cannot safely enter to verify damages
- d) Insured versus uninsured damage – Insured damages and losses are not eligible for disaster assistance.
- e) Tenant versus owner – Homeowners may be eligible for assistance in repairing or replacing losses to property and contents; whereas renters may be eligible for assistance to cover content losses only.

- f) Estimated days out of operation – This information is needed to estimate the total dollar loss to a business.
- g) Number of employees – Used to estimate the amount of disaster unemployment for a business.
- h) Replacement costs – Replacement costs of land, structures and contents are eligible for disaster assistance.

2. **Assessing Economic Injury**

Economic injury or loss to the community and businesses must be assessed as part of the overall damage assessment. These losses will be a part of the overall damage assessment used to determine eligibility of federal disaster assistance. There are several ways to assess economic injury. Extrapolation of actual damage against existing studies of economic conditions of an area; or an actual survey of recovered business and receipts is the second. Extensive studies have been completed using hypothetical disasters. Economic studies estimate that 55,000 jobs were lost statewide due to Hurricane Irma in 2017.

Damage to St. Johns County could easily top \$28.5 billion dollars of structural damage alone per current property appraiser estimates. Job losses from a Category 5 hurricane would be catastrophic. If damage levels parallel those of recent economic studies, economic injury estimates are possible.

G. **Community Recovery**

1. **Disaster Recovery Center (DRC)** – A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) is a fixed or mobile provisional facility set up by FEMA that provides a central location near disaster impacted areas where Federal, State, Tribal, and non-government organizations have recovery information, assistance, and services to disaster survivors. This facility offers disaster survivors a place to register with FEMA and obtain information and assistance on disaster relief resources available from Federal, State, and Tribal Nations and non-governmental organizations.

If St. Johns County receives an Individual Assistance Declaration a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) will be established in the immediate area to provide “one-stop shopping” for information and assistance. Telephone and online registration is the primary mechanism for the

registration of affected persons impacted by a disaster needing assistance with the DRC supplementing those efforts. The Emergency Management Director will work closely with the ESF's to ensure the selected facilities or locations are capable of supporting DRC operations for extended periods. It is anticipated that the Center will be located close to the impacted area. The concept is to have one fixed center open and also provide a mobile registration center to travel throughout the impacted areas and provide services. Several possible DRC locations have been identified by the Emergency Management Director. The primary center is at the St. Johns County Wind Mitigation Building. Other locations have been identified and are listed below:

| DRC Location | Area of County |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Hastings Library | Hastings |
| Solomon Calhoun Center | St. Augustine |
| Willie Galimore Recreation Facility | St. Augustine |
| Satellite Government Facilities | County-Wide |

The location will be determined depending on the disaster. A DRC Coordinator will be assigned by the Emergency Management Director and will provide the state and federal agencies with a list of locations identified in the pre-event planning stage and that have been inspected by preliminary damage assessment teams and found safe. The DRC Coordinator will ensure Memoranda of Understanding are completed for each facility selected for use as a DRC. Once DRC sites have been confirmed, the locations will be released to the Joint Information Center, where a coordinated press release will be provided to all available media sources indicating the DRC location(s). FEMA has established the following guidelines for determining if a building is suitable for use as a Disaster Recovery Center.

- Preferred 5,000 sq. ft. of floor space
- Waiting area capable of accommodating 100 persons
- Access for the disabled
- Separate parking areas for child care, crisis counseling, and first aid
- Adequate parking
- Located near public transportation systems
- Adequate utilities and communications
- Adequate rest rooms and janitorial services

Personnel for the DRC will be contacted via email and/or cell phones, if neither of these is available or in risk of interruption, back up measures will be implemented. A pre-event briefing will include

instructions and directions to DRC personnel. The request for establishment of a DRC is made through WebEOC to the State EOC.

2. **The Disaster Recovery Center Coordinator** – Will work closely with ESF-2 (Communications), ESF 3 (Public Works), ESF-6 (Mass Care), ESF-7 (Resource Support) and ESF-16 (Law Enforcement) to ensure the DRC has the necessary utilities, supplies and materials to conduct operations. Once a DRC site(s) has been confirmed, county, state and federal PIO's will prepare a coordinated press release to advise persons affected by the disaster of the location of DRC's, assistance available through the DRC's, and any documentation required to support their claims for assistance.
 - a) **Staffing** – DRC's will be staffed with representatives from appropriate federal, state and county agencies, private relief organizations, and other organizations capable of providing disaster related information to individuals and businesses. Recovery Center staffing includes representatives from the organizations listed below. Additional agencies and staff may be located at the Disaster Recovery Center as required.
 - a. FEMA / State Recovery Center Manager and Support Staff – Responsible for the overall management of the DRC.
 - b. Florida Dept. Of Economic Opportunity – Provides assistance and information to disaster survivors about unemployment compensation and disaster unemployment assistance.
 - c. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and Florida Dept. Of Agriculture and Consumer Services – Provides assistance and information to disaster survivors about low interest disaster loans that cover agricultural and farm losses.
 - d. U.S. Small Business Administration – Provides assistance and information to disaster survivors about low interest disaster loans for homeowners and business owners.
 - e. American Red Cross – Provides assistance and information about resources available through the American Red Cross.

- f. Salvation Army – Provides assistance and information about assistance available through the Salvation Army.
- g. Crisis Counselors – Provides professional counseling services to help relieve mental health problems caused or aggravated by the disaster event.
- h. Florida Office of Insurance Regulation – Provides assistance and information about resolving insurance claims and problems.
- i. Florida Dept. of Children & Families -- provides assistance and information on the availability of regular and emergency food stamps and individual/family grants.
- j. National Flood Insurance Program – Assists in determining whether damaged properties are located within designated flood plains.
- k. Temporary Housing Staff (FEMA) – Provides assistance and information about the availability of rental and mortgage assistance, and other housing programs.
- l. Internal Revenue Services – Provides assistance and information about how the disaster will affect their taxes.

b) **Equipment** – DRC will be supplied with, when possible:

- County Maps
- Tables and chairs
- “To Go” Kit
- Laptop computers
- Telephones
- Paper products
- Cleaning supplies
- Office supplies
- Copier(s)
- Fax machine
- Internet / Wi-Fi access

3. Feeding Distribution Sites and Temporary Living Areas

The Salvation Army serves as a support agency for ESF-6 Mass Care, ESF-11 Food and Water, and ESF-15 Volunteers and Donations. The American Red Cross (ARC) serves as a support agency to both ESF's. The ARC will coordinate with the Operations Officer for the placement of feeding, distribution, and temporary living sites. The ARC will provide Emergency Management with copies of any Memoranda of Understanding for any site utilized that does not appear in the county database as a pre-approved location. The St. Johns County Disaster Housing Strategy provides more detailed information in regard to the plans in place to temporarily house individuals displaced by a disaster. The Disaster Housing Strategy can be found in Appendix W.

In the event the number of persons forced from their residences exceeds the number of identified shelter spaces within St. Johns County, ESF-6 Mass Care will coordinate the provision of additional emergency shelter for persons affected by the disaster with the aid of state and federal ESF's.

ESF-11 will also coordinate provisions for feeding disaster survivors and emergency workers. They will work closely with their state and federal counterpart and other similar response organizations to establish fixed and mobile feeding kitchens and bulk distribution sites. Requests for bulk food and water will be processed through ESF-11 Food and Water to Emergency Management for submission to the State via WebEOC mission. ESF-11, in coordination with Emergency Management, will coordinate with its state and federal counterparts to locate and secure pre-packaged food, adequate supplies of water and purification units, and refrigerated trucks and boxcars for cold storage if required.

4. Infrastructure

a) Direction and Control of Recovery Operations

St. Johns County Disaster Recovery Division will be coordinating agency for Public Assistance Activities. They will be responsible for coordinating all activities related to federal reimbursement to local government and eligible private not-for-profit organizations, for their eligible costs incurred as a result of the event. Each of the following agencies is considered supporting agencies and potential applicants to the Public Assistance Program and will be present at both the applicant briefing and kickoff meeting. The list is updated when new potential eligible applicants are identified.

- Anastasia Mosquito Control District
- City of St. Augustine
- City of St. Augustine Beach
- Council on Aging
- Flagler Estates Water & Road Authority
- St. Johns County Administration
- St. Johns County Clerk of the Court
- St. Johns County Emergency Management
- St. Johns County Fire / Rescue
- St. Johns County Parks and Recreation
- St. Johns County Personnel
- St. Johns County Property Appraiser
- St. Johns County Public Works
- St. Johns County Sheriff's Office
- St. Johns County School District
- St. Johns County Utilities
- St. Johns County VOAD and private non-profits

Each municipality, special district or private non-profits (supporting agencies) is responsible for filing a separate application for public assistance with FEMA and will be required to file their own Request for Public Assistance (RPA) through the Florida PA system. The Emergency Management Director will work closely with ESF-14 Public Information to notify all eligible municipalities, taxing districts and private non-profits of the availability of federal public assistance funds. Notification may occur through written correspondence, telephone contact, notices in local newspapers, broadcasts on local radio and television stations and social media. Potential eligible applicants (including, but not limited to those listed above) will be notified of the date, time and location of the scheduled applicants briefing. The State has the responsibility to conduct the Applicant's Briefing.

b) Debris Disposal Procedures

ESF-3 has the responsibility for the overall coordination of debris removal efforts to include securing all required state and federal agency environmental permits. Emergency debris removal efforts will focus on clearing major transportation arteries in an effort to allow the movement of emergency vehicles, resources and traffic. After restoration of the major transportation arteries has been completed, debris will then be removed from collector roadways, residential /

local roadways, and public areas. Contracts for debris management have been developed and executed and will have to be activated by St. Johns County Administration or the Board of County Commissioners. These pre-executed contracts are included in Appendix T along with the FEMA approved Debris Management Plan.

In an effort to minimize the impacts on remaining landfill capacities, alternate means of debris disposal will be utilized whenever possible. Vegetative debris will be burned or chipped. Burning will not be used when it creates a public health hazard. Suitable burn sites will be pre-identified by ESF-3.

It is anticipated that significant numbers of personnel with engineering and construction skills, along with construction equipment and materials, will be required from state and federal agencies and from sources located outside of the affected area(s). The acquisition and deployment of these resources will be coordinated with ESF-7, Resource Support and ESF-3, Public Works.

The St. Johns County Attorney has developed right-of-entry procedures for debris removal from private property (PPDR). This procedure will only be enacted when it becomes necessary for public health and safety.

ESF-7, St. Johns County Purchasing Department is responsible for procuring emergency contracts. ESF-3, Public Works is responsible for overseeing and working with the debris monitor and removal contractors.

c) Insurance Coordination Procedures

Public Assistance reimbursement will not be provided for insured facilities or equipment. County and local government Risk Managers must ensure insurance documentation is readily available to efficiently determine what an allowable reimbursement project is and what is covered by insurance. The FDEM Public Assistance Office will administer all public assistance grants, agreements and contracts. FDEM Administrative staff will be responsible for providing technical assistance to eligible applicants and Sub-grantees and for maintaining and submitting all documents and paperwork necessary to obligate and disburse public assistance funds. This includes establishing a system for the processing of

payments to Sub-grantees and establishing and maintaining accounting records for each payment draw down by the State and each payment to the Sub-grantees.

5. Administrative Procedures

a) Financial Transactions

a. Applicant Briefing and Kick-off meeting

An applicant briefing will be scheduled to advise potential eligible applicants (municipalities, county government and private non-profit entities) of the availability and requirements of federal assistance. Each potential applicant will be asked to establish an account on Florida PA and submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) application. The RPA reports damages suffered by each potential applicant and are used by the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) and Public Assistance Officer (PAO) to determine the number of damage survey and inspection teams to deploy to impacted areas. There will be a deadline by which potential eligible applicants must submit an RPA. If a potential applicant does not submit an RPA by the established closing date the agency will not be eligible to seek FEMA reimbursement.

Representatives (and any others deemed essential) from each of the following should participate in the Applicant Briefing:

- Anastasia Mosquito Control District
- City of St. Augustine
- City of St. Augustine Beach
- Council on Aging
- Flagler Estates Water & Road Authority
- St. Johns County
- St. Johns County School District

Within one week of FEMA's receipt of an applicant's Request for Public Assistance the Emergency Management Director, or their designee, will schedule a Kick-off Meeting. This meeting differs from the applicants briefing by describing the application process and gives a general overview of the Public Assistance Program. It is designed to provide a much more detailed review of the PA Program. Representatives from each of the following

agencies (and any others deemed essential) should participate in the Kick-Off Meeting and will be contacted by telephone or email of all meetings:

- Anastasia Mosquito Control District
- City of St. Augustine
- City of St. Augustine Beach
- Council on Aging
- Flagler Estates Water & Road Authority
- St. Johns County Administration
- St. Johns County Clerk of the Court
- St. Johns County Emergency Management
- St. Johns County Fire / Rescue
- St. Johns County Growth Management
- St. Johns County Parks and Recreation
- St. Johns County Personnel
- St. Johns County Property Appraiser
- St. Johns County Public Works
- St. Johns County Sheriff's Office
- St. Johns County School District
- St. Johns County Utilities
- St. Johns County VOAD and private non-profits

The list of participants for the applicant briefings and kick-off meetings, along with their names and telephone numbers, will be kept on file with EM and will be updated as new potential applicants are identified.

St. Johns County has experienced eleven (11) Presidential Declarations.

- Firestorm 98
- Hurricane Floyd 1999
- Tropical Storm Gabrielle 2001
- Hurricane Charley 2004
- Hurricane Frances 2004
- Hurricane Jeanne 2004
- Tropical Storm Fay 2008
- Hurricane Matthew 2016
- Hurricane Irma 2017
- Hurricane Dorian 2019
- COVID 19 Pandemic 2020

A completed Request for Public Assistance (RPA) will be transmitted to the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) for

each potential applicant. If the RPA is denied by the FCO, the FDEM Public Assistance Officer (PAO) will notify the potential applicant in writing, explaining the specific reason(s) for denial and providing information on appeal procedures.

Potential applicants will also be requested to complete and return a "Designation of Sub-grantee's Agent" form that designates the official authorized to sign the funding agreement and execute relevant public assistance documents. Before any public assistance funds are released, the State and Applicant must enter into a disaster relief funding agreement.

It is vital during the Public Assistance process that each Project Worksheet be tracked accurately for payment. St. Johns County Disaster Recovery will monitor all county Project Worksheet's and receive financial guidance from the SJC Office of Management and Budget and the Clerk of the Court on transactions, accurate accounting, managing each grant for reimbursement, maintaining all documentation and following county policies and procedures.

b. Damage Surveys, Reports and Project Lists

Each potential applicant must submit, within the designated application period, a "List of Projects" to be reviewed for public assistance. This list should identify, for each damage site and project; the disaster assistance category, site location, description of the damage and scope of work necessary to repair, replace or restore projects to pre-disaster conditions. Damage survey and inspection teams, comprised of county, state and federal engineers, planners and architects, will review each project and activity on the List of Projects.

The FDEM Public Assistance Officer will coordinate with each applicant to:

- Arrange the survey and inspection schedules
- Ensure participation by appropriate local officials
- Ensure necessary records and documentation are available

The inspection team will prepare Project Worksheets (PW) for each project, identifying activity descriptions, scopes of work and cost estimates. Each PW undergoes two levels of review before approval by the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO). This approval must occur within 45 days of the date of first inspection. The first review, performed jointly by the state / federal damage survey and inspection team, is for concurrence on the PW. If state and federal inspectors concur, the Project Worksheet goes to the FCO for approval. If there is a disagreement on the PW, it is returned to the applicant for resolution of the discrepancy. The second review, conducted by FEMA staff, is done before final approval of the FCO. If the PW is approved, it is forwarded to the FCO for final approval. If there is a discrepancy, it is returned to the survey and inspection team for resolution of the discrepancy.

Any changes made to a Project Worksheet during any stage of the review process will be returned to the applicant, who will then have an opportunity to review the change, concur or not concur, and attach any additional documentation or statements to support their position.

St. Johns County will electronically manage all Project Worksheets and payments using the Florida PA program. All PW's, Damage Survey Reports, contracts, back-up documentation and corresponding memo's / letters will be submitted to St. Johns County Disaster Recovery to be archived according to current approved retention policies.

c. Appeals

The County, on behalf of a Sub-grantee, can petition the Governors Authorized Representative (GAR) to appeal any FEMA determination on, or denial of, federal public assistance. This appeal must be made in writing within 60 days from the date of notification of FEMA's determination. The Sub-grantee must provide sufficient information that permits the County to provide to the GAR the facts needed to assess the validity of the appeal. The Federal Coordinating Officer will review the appeal and conduct the necessary investigation to determine the validity of the appeal. The FCO will, within 90 days following receipt of the appeal, notify the GAR in writing of the disposition of the appeal or if additional information is required. If additional information is requested, the Federal

Coordinating Officer shall have an additional 90 days, from receipt of the information, to review the information and notify the Governors Authorized Representative of the disposition of the appeal. If the FCO denies an appeal, the Sub-grantee may submit a second appeal to the FEMA Assistant Administrator for Recovery. This appeal must be in writing and submitted through the GAR and FCO within 60 days after receipt of the denial of the first appeal. The FEMA Assistant Administrator for Recovery has 90 days in which to make a decision on appeal or request additional information. Second level appeal decisions are FEMA's final administrative decision and there is no further appeal process upon this determination.

d. Program Assistance and Management

The FDEM Public Assistance Officer will administer all public assistance grants, agreements and contracts. Administrative staff will be responsible for providing technical assistance to eligible applicants and Sub-grantees, and maintaining and submitting all documents and paperwork necessary to obligate and disburse public assistance funds. This includes establishing a system for the processing of payments to Sub-grantees and to FEMA; and establishing and maintaining accounting records for each payment draw down by the State and each payment to Sub-grantees. Public Assistance will be organized using the Public Assistance Manual and forms from the state.

e. Final Inspections

When all Project Worksheets in a project application have been completed, a project summary must be submitted by the Sub-grantee to the Public Assistance Officer and Governor's Authorized Representative. State and federal inspectors will conduct a final inspection of the project to verify the project's completion. Final inspection documents will then be prepared and forwarded to the FCO for the preparation of project closing documents.

b) Staff Support

The SJC Disaster Recovery Division will be flexible and capable of expanding and contracting as required by the event. Typical staffing and related duties are:

Public Assistance Coordinator – Coordinates the scheduling of damage survey inspection teams and assists in the review of completed Project Worksheets (PWs);

Public Assistance Inspectors – Review public damage as part of state damage survey inspection teams and provides technical assistance to eligible applicants in the preparation and review of PWs;

Risk Manager / Insurance Coordinator – Provides technical assistance to eligible applicants on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and other insurance requirements coverage and types of policies) and reviews completed PWs for compliance with insurance requirements.

Risk Manager – Provides technical assistance to eligible applicants on coverage policies and property ownership.

Administrative Staff – Process payments to eligible applicants, manage sub-grants with eligible applicants and maintain accurate accounting of all financial transactions;

Support Staff – Prepare routine correspondence and applications, maintain files and perform necessary clerical work;

Legal Staff – Review public assistance policies and procedures for compliance with applicable local, state and federal requirements and regulations.

Employment of Temporary Staff – In the event of a catastrophic event, the existing staff of the County and municipal government(s) may be insufficient to staff the Disaster Recovery Division. The Emergency Management Director, through coordination with County Administration, may contact the following sources for additional temporary staff:

- Professional engineering associations – for temporary public assistance inspectors.
- Florida Chapter, American Planning Association – for temporary public assistance inspectors.
- State agencies – for temporary public assistance inspectors, administrative and other support staff.

c) **Project Worksheet Information and Preparation Support**

Project Worksheet information and preparation support is the responsibility of the applicant agency, with assistance from St. Johns County Emergency Management, FDEM and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

6. National Flood Insurance Program

St. Johns County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. A portion of St. Johns County is in a special hazard flood zone known as the Coastal High Hazard Area. St. Johns County also participates in the Community Rating System, which allows communities to lower the rates paid by their citizens for flood insurance. Communities are classified as Class 1 (most premium reduction allowed) through Class 10 (no reduction allowed). Communities not participating are classified as Class 10.

| Community Name | Number of Policies | Date Joined Regular Program | Date Most Recent Rate Map | Community Rating System Rank |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| City of St. Augustine | 4,558 | 10-11-72 | 12-07-18 | 5 |
| City of St. Augustine Beach | 3,314 | 9-29-72 | 12-07-18 | 8 |
| Unincorporated St. Johns | 28,167 | 7-06-73 | 12-07-18 | 5 |

Source - FEMA Oct. 2019

St. Johns County has a Comprehensive Land Use Plan that limits building and rebuilding within the wetlands and flood plains. The Comprehensive Land Use Plan is the basis for rebuilding, building, and planning within the flood plains. All recovery actions, both short and long term, must be completely addressed through the Comprehensive Plan.

Additionally, the St. Johns County Comprehensive Plan is an all-inclusive plan that accepts input from not only citizen groups but also technical advisory groups that were developed based on the expertise of members.

7. Habitability Certification

Structures, buildings, and homes that have been severely damaged, and / or had power cut off in impacted areas, cannot have power restored until inspected by a certified electrician. A lack of electricity can impact the habitability of structures. The St. Johns County Building Official will notify utility suppliers in the County when reinstatement of electrical service is authorized, which in the most

extreme of cases could be weeks to months. All buildings damaged must be permitted for rebuilding or restoration and all new work must be compliant with current building codes. If a building or home is damaged more than 50%, the entire structure will be required to be brought up to current building codes. Condemnation of severely damaged buildings and structures will be issued as they become public safety hazards. These are legal responsibilities of all jurisdictions within the county.

8. Temporary Disaster Housing

The Assistant Director of St. Johns County Department of Health and Human Services will serve as the coordinator for temporary disaster housing. The Assistant Director, along with staff from the Division of Housing and Community Development, will work to find the most suitable solutions for temporary disaster housing, whether it be identifying vacant property, allowing travel trailers on residential lots, utilizing hotel rooms, or one of the many other solutions identified in the St. Johns County Disaster Housing Strategy¹. The County will rely heavily on state and federal assistance for temporary or emergency housing.

9. Unmet Needs Coordination

ESF-15- Volunteers and Donations is the primary support function for assisting with initial unmet needs. ESF-15 is led by the Salvation Army and the Red Cross. St. Johns County in coordination with ESF-15 and the Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)/ Long Term Recovery Organizations (LTRO) will utilize the following avenues to identify unmet needs within our community:

- Initial Damage Assessment
- Preliminary Damage Assessment
- Community Relations
- Citizen Calls
- Reports from Emergency Personnel
- Media Reports
- Disaster Recovery Center Reports
- Social Media
- VOAD/ LTRO Conference Calls

When unmet needs are identified, ESF-15 will work to fill the request by using available inventory or donated goods. As the event transitions into recovery, more organizations become involved in

¹ St. Johns County Disaster Housing Strategy is located in Appendix W

helping fulfil unmet needs. Once the event has fully transitioned into recovery, the St. Johns County VOAD/LTRO serves as the unmet needs committee for the County. The VOAD has a designated chair who will have the primary responsibility for connecting disaster survivors with organizations who can help meet any unmet needs. As time goes on, calls for needs will begin to transition from the EOC call center to other departments such as Health and Human Services. Individuals involved in fielding calls will forward information to the VOAD/LTRO chair to handle with involved organizations.

The VOAD includes members from the following organizations:

- Alpha Omega
- American Red Cross
- Flagler Health + Care Connect
- Catholic Charities
- Children Home Society
- City of St. Augustine
- City of St. Augustine Beach
- Council on Aging
- Haven Hospice
- Homeless Coalition
- Home Again St. Johns
- Local Churches
- Salvation Army
- Southern Baptist
- St. Johns County
- United Way
- Volunteer Groups

The VOAD/COAD and the support agencies will:

- Help to identify additional unmet needs in the community
- Reach out to community programs for assistance
- Track requests
- Monitor media for information
- Coordinate with Community Relations
- Track individual family case management
- Follow-up with families / communities

Training for ESF-15 members and local community groups is scheduled through St. Johns County Emergency Management, American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and other agencies. Training includes topics such as emergency home repair, light debris removal, donation management, processing centers,

volunteer management, crisis counseling and other needed assistance.

10. Community Relations and Response

The St. Johns County Director of Emergency Management, or their designee, will act as the County Community Relations Coordinator. The St. Johns County VOAD and LTRO will be utilized to assist the Community Relations Coordinator.

The County Community Relations Coordinator (EM Director) and team will function as the liaison with the State Community Response Coordinator. The Community Relations Team in conjunction with the Damage Assessment Team will determine the most critically damaged or impacted areas for the FEMA / State Team to focus on. Municipalities, SJC Chamber of Commerce, and religious and civic organizations will be contacted to assist in assessing the community needs. In addition, ESF-8 Health and Medical lead and support agencies such as Care Connect will be used to identify special medical needs or special concerns that need to be addressed. St. Johns County has identified some potential areas of special concern including the large boating community, migrant population in the Hastings area and a number of mobile home / RV Parks in the County. During the recovery phase, special effort will be made to reach impacted individuals that may need some assistance as identified above. The Community Relations Team is assigned the following duties:

- a) Contact / liaise with the State Community Relations Coordinator in the State EOC or the JFO.
- b) Maintain LTRO, VOAD and Community Leader Contact list, which is available in the Emergency Management Office.
- c) Responsible for recruiting local participants in the St. Johns County area to be part of the FEMA / State / Local Community Relations Teams during a Presidential Declared Disaster in St. Johns County.
- d) Responsible for collection and dissemination of information vital for disaster survivors to recover from the declared disaster. Flyers and applicant guides will be distributed to disaster survivors for them to register online at <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/> or by phone at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) for Disaster Assistance.

- e) Responsible to report any disaster survivors unmet needs to the appropriate agency.
- f) Responsible to provide the disaster survivor with an opportunity to tell their story to a responsive DRC staff, or Community Relations Team, member.
- g) Responsible to maintain on-going communications with Community leaders / Organizations and Local Government officials regarding disaster issues and the disaster applicant process, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Administrator | St. Johns County
 - Mayor | City of St. Augustine
 - Mayor | City of St. Augustine Beach
 - Director | Northeast Florida Chapter | ARC
 - Director | Florida Department of Health, St. Johns
 - Chair | St. Johns County BOCC
 - Captain | Salvation Army
 - President | Flagler Hospital
 - Local Churches
- h) Perform other roles and responsibilities, which are outlined in the Florida Community Response Standard Operations Guidance.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT PLAN

2021

Annex II
Mitigation



I. INTRODUCTION

Hazard mitigation is any action taken to permanently reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and their property from the effects of hazards. Some examples of hazard mitigation include land use planning techniques that limit infrastructure in high hazard areas and programs for retrofitting existing structures to meet new building codes and standards. Ideally, a community can minimize the effects of future hazards through a mix of code enforcement, planning, and responsible development. Every community is exposed to some level of risk from hazards. Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, hazardous material spills, fires, severe weather and sinkholes are some of the hazards experienced by Florida communities.

II. GENERAL

Hazards cannot be eliminated, but it is possible to determine the potential hazards, the areas which are most vulnerable, and identify local activities that can be taken to reduce the severity of the hazard. St. Johns County has developed a Local Mitigation Strategy with the purpose of developing and executing an ongoing strategy for reducing the community's vulnerability to identified natural, technological and human caused hazards. The strategy provides a rational, managed basis for considering and prioritizing hazard-specific mitigation options and for developing and executing sound, cost-effective mitigation projects. The LMS also provides a basis for justifying the solicitation and use of local, state, federal, and other funding to support hazard mitigation projects and initiatives. St. Johns County's Local Mitigation Strategy is approved by both the State of Florida and FEMA through June 2025.

A. Lead Agency for Pre-Disaster and Post-Disaster Mitigation Operations

St. Johns County Emergency Management is the lead agency for all mitigation activities in the county. The Emergency Management Director or their designee has responsibility for directing all pre- and post-disaster mitigation activities and for coordinating mitigation activities with the St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy Taskforce.

B. Support Agencies for Pre-Disaster and Post-Disaster Mitigation Operations

St. Johns County Emergency Management is responsible for coordinating mitigation planning with operational assistance from a number of supporting agencies. Lead and support agencies for mitigation activities are described in **Table 1**.

TABLE 1: Agency Responsibilities for Hazard Mitigation

| Agency | Pre-Disaster Mitigation | Post-Disaster Mitigation |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| American Red Cross (ARC) | S | S |
| AT&T | S | S |
| Beaches Energy | S | S |
| Comcast | S | S |
| City of St. Augustine | S | S |
| City of St. Augustine Beach | S | S |
| Clay County Emergency Management | S | S |
| Duval County Emergency Management | S | S |
| Flagler County Emergency Management | S | S |
| Flagler Estates Water & Road District | S | S |
| Flagler Hospital | S | S |
| Florida Division of Emergency Management | S | S |
| Florida Forest Service | S | S |
| Florida Power & Light (FPL) | S | S |
| Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) | S | S |
| Putnam County Emergency Management | S | S |
| Salvation Army | S | S |
| St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners | S | S |
| St. Johns County Building Department | S | S |
| St. Johns County Clerk of the Court | S | S |
| St. Johns County Emergency Management | P | P |
| St. Johns County Engineering Department | S | S |
| St. Johns County Extension Agent | S | S |
| St. Johns County Fire / Rescue | S | S |
| St. Johns County Growth Management | S | S |
| St. Johns County Health Department | S | S |
| St. Johns County Planning Department | S | S |
| St. Johns County Library | S | S |
| St. Johns County Road & Bridge | S | S |
| St. Johns County School District | S | S |
| St. Johns County Sheriff's Office | S | S |
| St. Johns County Tourist Development Council | S | S |
| St. Johns County Utilities | S | S |

P = Primary Agency | S = Support Agency

C. Concept of Operations

This section of the plan provides an overview of the management of pre- and post-disaster mitigation activities in St. Johns County. The purpose is to provide guidance for the activities necessary for St. Johns County to reduce the potential for damage and loss from future disasters affecting the county.

1. **Emergency Management Organization System Used During Mitigation**

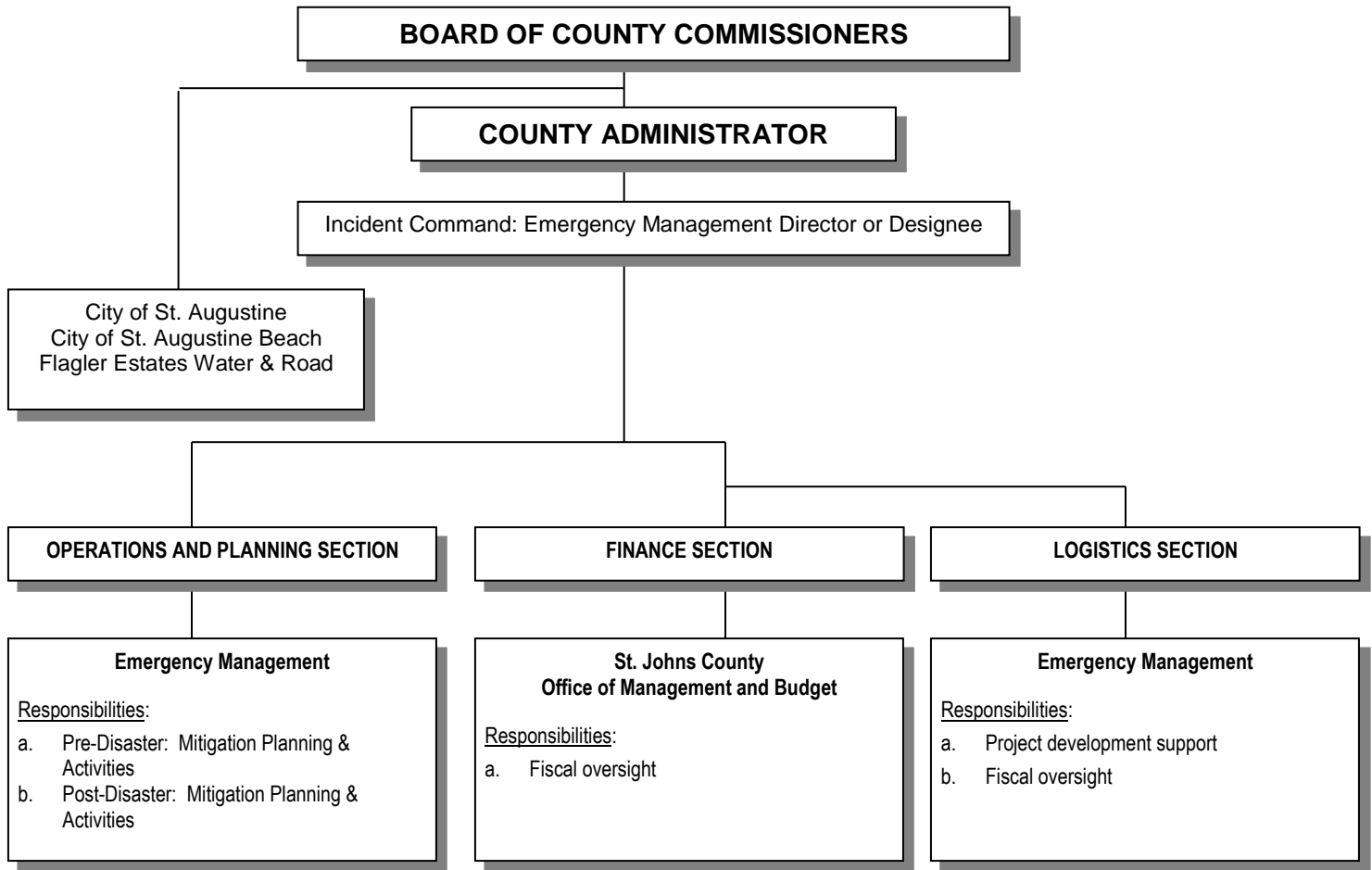
The County operates under the ESF / NIMS system during emergency operations. This system is especially effective for managing response and recovery operations that involve multiple agencies each working on different, though interrelated, tasks. The organization system for mitigation activities is streamlined with St. Johns County Emergency Management being the primary coordinating agency of pre- and post-disaster mitigation. Emergency Management receives assistance from supporting agencies, with some mitigation activities carried out directly by those agencies. The organizational chart on the following page shows the relationship between Emergency Management and supporting agencies involved in mitigation operations.

2. **Notification and Coordination of Agency Participation in Mitigation Operations**

a) **Pre-Disaster Operations**

Mitigation activities in the pre-disaster environment are the responsibility of St. Johns County Emergency Management the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Taskforce. The St. Johns County LMS identifies the hazards to which St. Johns County is vulnerable; assesses the facilities and structures that are most vulnerable to hazards; offers a prioritized list of mitigation projects to take advantage of available funding; and links mitigation projects to these sources of funding.

Emergency Management is responsible for maintaining the St. Johns County LMS and Project List. The LMS will be updated at least annually, after each major disaster, and submitted for approval by FEMA and the State of Florida on a five year cycle. Participation by local agencies in the Local Mitigation Strategy Taskforce will be coordinated by Emergency Management and will involve the supporting agencies listed in **Table 1**.



| ESF Resource List | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| ESF 1 | Transportation |
| ESF 2 | Information Technology |
| ESF 3 | Public Works |
| ESF 4 | Fire Fighting |
| ESF 5 | Information & Planning |
| ESF 6 | Mass Care |
| ESF 7 | Resource Support |
| ESF 8 | Health & Medical |
| ESF 9 | Search & Rescue |
| ESF 10 | Hazardous Materials & Environmental Protection |
| ESF 11 | Food & Water |
| ESF 12 | Energy |
| ESF 13 | Military Support |
| ESF 14 | Public Information |
| ESF 15 | Volunteers & Donations |
| ESF 16 | Law Enforcement |
| ESF 17 | Animal & Agricultural |
| ESF 18 | Business & Industry |

MITIGATION ANNEX – MAJOR EVENTS
LEAD AGENCIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

b) Post-Disaster Operations

St. Johns County Emergency Management will also be responsible for coordinating local agency participation in post-disaster mitigation activities. Local agencies involved in these operations will vary according to the specifics of each event. Emergency Management will contact all agencies for post-disaster mitigation activities and notify them as to their role in these operations.

3. Coordination of Mitigation Activities with Municipalities and the State

The St. Johns County Emergency Management Director or designee will be responsible for coordinating mitigation activities with the municipalities and the State EOC. The City Manager of St. Augustine and the City Manager of St. Augustine Beach, or their designees, will be updated throughout the response, recovery, and mitigation phases of the event. During non-event periods, meetings will be held quarterly or monthly if needed. During events, briefing meetings will be held daily, or as deemed appropriate by the LMS Coordinator. During the emergency, the Emergency Management Director or their designee will coordinate on an as needed basis with the Bureau of Recovery and Mitigation at the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

4. Local Government Status in the National Flood Insurance Program

St. Johns County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). There are 28,167 policyholders in unincorporated St. Johns County; 4,558 in the City of St. Augustine; and 3,314 in St. Augustine Beach. The county also participates in the Community Rating System with a current CRS rating of 5 and actively supports public education regarding building in flood prone areas.

5. Process for Identifying Mitigation Opportunities in the Post-Disaster Environment

St. Johns County Emergency Management is responsible for coordinating all recovery operations in the county. As a result of this active role in the recovery process, Emergency Management is well poised to identify opportunities for future mitigation projects such as elevation and / or acquisition of flood prone structures, drainage improvement projects, and infrastructure enhancement projects. Emergency Management works closely with the damage

assessment teams in the field and the building inspectors for St. Johns County and the municipalities to identify potential mitigation opportunities.

6. Process to Manage Mitigation Assistance Funds

All mitigation and recovery grants are applied for and administered under the supervision of St. Johns County Emergency Management. Emergency Management has managed a variety of recovery and mitigation grants in the past including Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds.

III. PRE-DISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIVITIES

Pre-disaster hazard mitigation activities are described in detail in the St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy. The Local Mitigation Strategy is a community-based plan to make the county and local communities safer and more resilient to natural, human caused and technological hazards.¹

IV. POST-DISASTER MITIGATION ACTIVITIES

A. Planning Assumptions

Following a disaster, St. Johns County Emergency Management will rely on information generated by St. Johns County Departments, Municipalities, information collected during damage assessment, the prioritized project list from the St. Johns County LMS, and overall guidance from the LMS Taskforce and Emergency Management Director to identify specific mitigation projects.

B. Lead Agency with Responsibility for Providing Mitigation Assessment

St. Johns County Emergency Management is the primary agency charged with post-disaster mitigation assessment. The Emergency Management Director or their designee has the primary responsibility for assessing mitigation needs in the post-disaster environments. The Local Mitigation Strategy Taskforce members and the agencies listed in Table 1 will be the support agencies.

C. Roles and Responsibilities of Lead and Support Agencies

1. St. Johns County Emergency Management

¹ The St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy is a separate reference and planning document that can be found on file at with St. Johns County Emergency Management.

St. Johns County Emergency Management will serve as the coordinating organization for all post-disaster mitigation activities. Emergency Management will notify all supporting agencies required for mitigation assessment operations by telephone, text message or email; coordinate all activities required to identify potential mitigation projects and initiatives, coordinate the application process for mitigation related grants; and serve as the grant administrator for County mitigation grants.

The Emergency Management Director or their designee also serves as the point of contact for providing information to residents of the county describing how they can minimize damage from future disasters. This is accomplished through brochures, mitigation information on the Emergency Management website, community awareness programs, social media and videos on GTV.

2. St. Johns County Code Enforcement

The St. Johns Building Department and Code Enforcement will support Emergency Management by conducting damage assessments, gathering the data needed to detail the impacts to the community, and providing technical expertise regarding property values, damages and losses to properties as a result of a disaster.

3. St. Johns County Growth Management

St. Johns County Growth Management and the Municipal Building Departments will provide support to Emergency Management in identifying mitigation activities that could reduce the vulnerability of public infrastructure, businesses and housing to damage and loss from natural, human caused and technological disasters.

4. St. Johns County Public Works & Utilities Departments / Municipal Public Works & Utilities Departments

The St. Johns County Public Works and Utility Departments and the Municipal Public Works and Utility Departments will assist Emergency Management in identifying potential road, bridge, storm water, and water and sewer mitigation projects.

D. Coordination between Lead and Support Agencies

Emergency Management will serve as the organization responsible for coordinating mitigation activities for lead and support agencies. In St. Johns County, much of the work involved in identifying opportunities for possible

mitigation activities is accomplished during the pre-disaster mitigation phase (e.g. during the mitigation project identification and ranking process established by the St. Johns County LMS Taskforce). Opportunities for mitigation are also discovered during the initial and preliminary damage assessments and throughout the public assistance processes. The supporting agencies noted above assess damage to public infrastructure, businesses and residences working in conjunction with Emergency Management in the damage assessment process. Emergency Management, along with input from supporting agencies, then considers the information gathered during the recovery phase and determinations are made regarding potential mitigation projects.

E. Identification of Structures in the Special Flood Hazard Area

St. Johns County Emergency Management in conjunction with County and Municipal Floodplain Managers will work with the Damage Assessment Teams to identify structures damaged within the Special Flood Hazard Areas. Building Officials or the Floodplain Manager will then complete a secondary assessment of these structures to determine if they have sustained substantial damage as defined by the National Flood Insurance Program.