

ST. LUCIE
COUNTY

F L O R I D A

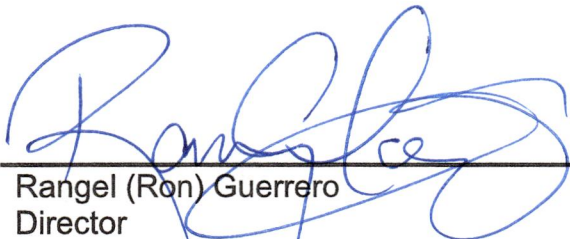


**COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT PLAN
(CEMP)**

JANUARY 2023

APPROVAL SIGNATURES

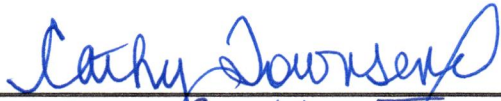
The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) is approved by St. Lucie County Public Safety Department, and the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners



Rangel (Ron) Guerrero
Director
St. Lucie County Public Safety Department

11/28/2023

Date Approved



George Landry Cathy Townsend
County Administrator SEC BOCC chair
St. Lucie County

11/7/23

Date Approved

ATTEST:



DEPUTY CLERK



APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND CORRECTNESS



COUNTY ATTORNEY

PLAN SECURITY

The St. Lucie County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is not considered a classified document. However, some related documents do contain sensitive information and their handling and distribution should be controlled and limited, both electronically and in hard copy.

In accordance with Florida Statutes §281.301 and §119.071(3) (a) (1), documents related to this document are held by a governmental agency and the information contained within may be confidential and intended only for the use of those individuals and agencies to which this document is issued. (See Planning Methodology, section 2.0 for list of agencies that participate in this plan)

Those related documents may be exempt from disclosure under Florida Statute 119.07(1) and S. 24(a), Article I of the Florida State Constitution.

RECORD OF REVISION

Change Number	Person Making Changes	Change or Revision	Date
1		Four-year revision of CEMP; complies with CPG-101 requirements; significant structural reorganization of document	

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STAKEHOLDERS LIST

St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>County Administration</i> • <i>County Attorney</i> • <i>Human Resources</i> • <i>Information Technology</i> • <i>Air & Sea Port</i> • <i>Community Services</i> • <i>Transit</i> • <i>Facilities</i> • <i>Office of Management & Budget</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Parks & Recreation</i> • <i>Economic Development</i> • <i>Environmental Resources</i> • <i>Extension</i> • <i>Planning & Development Services</i> • <i>Public Utilities</i> • <i>Public Works</i> • <i>Tourism</i>
St. Lucie County Property Appraiser	
St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office	
St. Lucie County Fire District	
St. Lucie County Supervisor of Elections	
St. Lucie County Tax Collector	
St. Lucie County Clerk of the Circuit Court	
Office of the State Attorney, 19th Judicial Circuit	
Office of the Public Defender, 19th Judicial Circuit	
Florida Department of Health – St. Lucie County	
St. Lucie County Public Schools	
City of Fort Pierce	
City of Port St. Lucie	
Town of St. Lucie Village	
Treasure Coast Planning Council	
South Florida Water Management District	
Florida Division of Emergency Management	
Florida Forest Service	
Florida Wildlife Conversation Commission.	
Florida Department of Transportation	
Florida Highway Patrol	
Florida Department of Law Enforcement	
American Red Cross	
Treasure Coast Food Bank	
Florida Power & Light	
Fort Pierce Utilities Authority	
HCA Florida – Lawnwood Hospital	
HCA Florida – St. Lucie Hospital	
Cleveland Clinic	

PROMULGATION STATEMENT

The preservation of life, property, and environment is an inherent responsibility of local, state, and federal government as well as the individual. St. Lucie County, in cooperation with the County's constitutional officers, non-governmental organizations, private sector and non-profit agencies, have prepared this Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) to ensure the most effective coordination and allocation of resources for the protection of people and property in time of emergency.

While no plan can eliminate hazards and risks, effective plans carried out by knowledgeable and well-trained personnel can reduce losses, injuries, and damages. This plan establishes the emergency organization, assigns responsibilities, specifies policies, and provides coordination of planning efforts of the various emergency staff and service elements using the Emergency Support Function concepts. It interfaces those concepts using nationally recognized incident management principles such as the National Response Framework (NRF) and National Incident Management System (NIMS), and federally identified Community Lifelines.

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 of Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. The County will review and exercise the plan on an annual basis and revise it as necessary to meet changing conditions.

The St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division shall be responsible for coordinating the preparation and continuous updating of the CEMP and will ensure that this plan is consistent with similar federal, state, and municipal plans.

This plan will become effective upon official adoption by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners.

Rangel (Ron) Guerrero
Director
St. Lucie County Public Safety Department

SECTION 1: BASIC PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

St. Lucie County is vulnerable to a variety of natural and man-made hazards that threaten the county's residents, visitors, infrastructure, economy, and environment. It is the responsibility of St. Lucie County's governments to be adequately prepared to respond to and recover from the many types of disasters that the community is threatened by. Adequate preparation requires continuous action to build a culture of preparedness throughout St. Lucie County, determine solutions to decrease vulnerability to hazards, bolster the county's capability to effectively respond to disasters and provide emergency services, and implement effective short-term and long-term recovery processes.

The St. Lucie County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) establishes a framework for government agencies within St. Lucie County, and nongovernmental community partners, to plan and implement necessary protective actions to safeguard the welfare of the community against the impacts of disasters. The CEMP defines the policies pertaining to local disaster prevention, response and protective measures, the county's organizational structure and functional roles within for responding to disasters, and the operational concepts necessary to implement protective actions. Further, the CEMP outlines actions in all phases of the emergency management cycle: preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

The CEMP builds upon St. Lucie County's responsibilities outlined in Chapter 252, Florida Statutes (Emergency Management Act), requiring the preparation and maintenance of this plan. The CEMP satisfies the plan criteria document (CEMP 001) as set forth by the State of Florida, aligning local emergency management activities with state activities as defined in the State of Florida CEMP, and federal activities as defined in the National Response Framework. The plan details how resources at the local, state, and federal level will be coordinated to augment St. Lucie County's local response efforts.

The CEMP is divided into four sections: Basic Plan, Recovery Annex, Mitigation Annex, and Appendices.

1. **Basic Plan:** The Basic Plan encompasses the general purpose, scope and planning methodology, concept of operations identifying control and organizational structure, and responsibilities of all agencies and resources mobilized by the county to assist in recovering from a disaster. The Basic Plan also provides a jurisdictional profile detailing St. Lucie County's demographics, land use patterns, economy, and overview of the hazards that the county is susceptible to.
2. **Recovery Annex:** The Recovery 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. Lucie County designed to facilitate both immediate and long-term recovery after a disaster has occurred. The annex provides for rapid and orderly start of rehabilitation and restoration of persons and property affected by a disaster anywhere in St. Lucie County.

3. **Mitigation Annex:** The Mitigation Annex includes the 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. Lucie County Local Mitigation Strategy gives more detailed mitigation information and is referred to within this Annex.
4. **Appendices:** The appendices are located at the end of the CEMP and provide additional information regarding concepts brought up within the CEMP.

1.1. PURPOSE

The St. Lucie County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (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, impact and damage assessment, debris management, training and exercises, and post-disaster recovery programs. The CEMP establishes official emergency management policy for all county agencies and municipalities in response to, recovery from, and mitigation of emergencies and disasters within St. Lucie County. The CEMP initiates a temporary re-organization of government intended to provide the most efficient response and recovery system possible through the coordination and maximum utilization of all available resources. The CEMP establishes a framework for an effective system of comprehensive emergency management for the purposes of:

- Reducing loss of life, injury, and property damage and loss resulting from natural or human-caused emergencies.
- Preparing for prompt and efficient response and recovery activities to protect lives and property impacted by emergencies.
- Responding to emergencies with the effective use of all relevant plans and resources deemed appropriate.
- Recovering from emergencies by providing for the rapid and systematic implementation of restoration and rehabilitation programs for persons and properties affected by emergencies.
- 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.
- Implementing St. Lucie County’s emergency organizational structure to

the extent necessary, as dictated by the magnitude of the emergency event.

1.2. SCOPE

This plan establishes the coordinating structures, processes, and protocols required to integrate the specific statutory and policy authorities of various County departments and agencies into a framework for action to include all phases of emergency management, as outlined below:

1. **Preparedness:** Planning, coordination, education, and training to identify community needs and ensure readiness to adequately respond to a disaster.
2. **Response:** Actions taken to mobilize personnel and resources immediately before, during, and after a disaster impact aimed at saving lives and property
3. **Recovery:** Restoring normalcy within the community, ranging from short-term restoration of critical services and infrastructure to long-term revitalization.
4. **Mitigation:** Preventative measures to reduce future loss of life or property from a disaster.

The CEMP is an all-hazards, all-threats plan and applies to incidents regardless of size, cause, or complexity. This CEMP establishes direction and control and outlines the interagency and multi-jurisdictional mechanisms necessary for the involvement and coordination of the county, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, state government, and federal government.

The St. Lucie County CEMP applies within the geographical limits of St. Lucie County and includes the cities of Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie, and the Town of St. Lucie Village.

In the event that a CEMP is developed for a specific municipality, it must be consistent with the provisions established in this CEMP, and the municipality's emergency management efforts must be coordinated with those of St. Lucie County.

This plan is not intended to alter or impede the ability of any department, agency, or jurisdiction to carry out its specific authorities or perform its responsibilities under applicable laws.

2. PLANNING METHODOLOGY

The CEMP and its annexes were developed through a collaborative planning process led by St. Lucie County and involving all partner agencies and stakeholders. A series of meetings were held to assure local participation in the planning process and all involved agencies and departments demonstrated support in the planning process by personal participation in planning meetings. The collective input from all agencies represents the whole community approach that governs St. Lucie County's ongoing planning methodology and daily emergency management practices.

The St. Lucie County agencies, municipalities, special districts, and non-governmental entities involved in emergency management planning can be referenced in the Stakeholder List on page 8.

References that apply to the St. Lucie County CEMP include:

External

- University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research
- *U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts, Population Census, April 1, 2020*
- U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates: Demographic and Housing Estimates
- Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County 2019
- Office of Economic Demographic Research
- 2018 American Community Study, US Census Bureau
- USDA 2017 Census for Agriculture
- Florida Legislature Office of Economic & Demographic Research
- Florida Research & Economic Information Database Application
- National Response Framework
- Community Lifelines Implementation Toolkit
- Municipal Emergency Management Plans
- State CEMP
- State and federal policies and legislation (See Section 8, Reference & Authorities)

Internal

- St. Lucie County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS)
- Emergency Management Plans, Guides, Policies, and Procedures
- Local ordinances and policies (See Section 8, Reference & Authorities)
- Documents under the CEMP (See Section 8, Reference & Authorities; see organizational plan structure graphic in Appendix C)

2.1. LOCAL PLANNING PROCESS

St. Lucie County Emergency Management is the lead emergency planning agency and developed the basic planning policies, guidelines, and CEMP document under the direction of the Public Safety Director or designee. Emergency Management staff conduct planning meetings with key stakeholders, where their input guides the development of the documents. A complete stakeholders list has been included in the Foreword of this document.

The CEMP is adopted by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners upon completion. The Letter of Promulgation is included at the beginning of the basic plan.

The CEMP outlines the primary organizational structure, roles, and responsibilities of all partner agencies. Each department head is required to acknowledge responsibility for assigned roles and responsibilities by reviewing the appropriate annexes and/or Coordinating Procedures (CPs).

Each supporting entity within the EOC organizational structure is incorporated into the EOC organization chart. With the assistance of those lead and support agencies assigned responsibility, the County drafted CPs for the designated leader(s) of each section within the command structure.

All supporting plans, Standard Operating Guides (SOGs), and CPs were reviewed and updated in the timeframe the CEMP was updated and approved by members of the lead and supporting agencies. Each leader of a particular unit, group, branch, and section, as well as command staff, is responsible for ensuring an understanding of the scope of their respective role as outlined in the plan documents pertaining to their role.

The complete organizational chart depicting the hierarchy of St. Lucie County's emergency management plans and coordinating procedures supplementary to the CEMP can be found in Appendix 3.

2.2. PLAN MAINTENANCE AND DISTRIBUTION

The CEMP is maintained under the direction of the Public Safety Director or designee and updated in accordance with Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and consistent with all applicable criteria.

Updates to the CEMP occur by way of the local planning process outlined in section 2.1. The official CEMP update occurs every four years, when the plan is due to the state for review. The official update is led by Emergency Management staff, who engage with key stakeholders through the process. Once the CEMP is approved by the state, it is adopted by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners as stated under Section 2.1. Minor changes to the CEMP are made on an annual basis, along with SOGs and other supporting documents. Similar to the other documents, annual changes to the CEMP are made in consultation with the applicable partners.

The Concept of Operations section of the Plan is subject to many changes in defining procedural methods and techniques. Changes to the various functions and units identified in the CEMP do not require ratification by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners unless there is a defined change in policy that has a major effect on any function.

The Public Safety Director or designee is the sole person with responsibility to authorize changes to the CEMP or its annexes.

The plan is distributed to all Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff, support staff, liaisons, municipalities, and upon request, to other parties. Portions of the plan will also be available on the St. Lucie County website.

The distribution list indicating the organizations to be issued a copy of the final and approved CEMP is as follows:

Copy Type	Department/Agency
Hard Copy	St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division (Master)
	St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners
	St. Lucie County Administration
Electronic	All stakeholders as listed on page 9.

**An electronic version will be shared with all local elected officials, lead agencies, support agencies, and volunteer and non-governmental partners.*

The distribution list will be used to determine which organizations or individuals require copies of authorized changes. Changes will be recorded on the “Plan Maintenance and Revision Record” located in the front of the CEMP.

The “Record of Changes” maintained by the Emergency Management Division will be used to verify that each organization has all current updates or changes to the CEMP. Organizations will be notified of changes annually and provided with an updated document electronically in between formal four-year update.

3.SITUATION

This section of the CEMP provides an overview of the county's population, the potential hazards to which the county is vulnerable, geographic characteristics, supporting facilities, land use patterns, economic profile, and demographics. This section identifies several planning assumptions that were considered in the planning process during the development of this plan.

3.1. HAZARDS

St. Lucie County is vulnerable to a variety of natural and human-made hazards. This section provides an abbreviated version of the full hazard analysis contained in the St. Lucie County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). The LMS identifies potential hazards and discusses the impact each hazard may have on St. Lucie County's residents, visitors, properties, environment, and economy. The analysis also includes an extensive review of historical data, which is then extrapolated for specific planning and forecasting purposes in both the LMS and CEMP. Planning for hazards in this manner illustrates how disasters could affect the County's critical facilities and their essential services. Table 2.1 lists all hazards analyzed in the Local Mitigation Strategy that St. Lucie County is susceptible to.

Table 2.1: Hazards That May Affect St. Lucie County

Natural Hazards			
Flooding	Hurricanes/Tropical Storms	Tornadoes	Severe Thunderstorms & Lightning
Wildfire	Erosion	Extreme Temperatures	Drought
Sinkholes	Tsunami	Sea Level Rise	Dam/Levee Failure
Agricultural Pests & Diseases			
Technological Hazards			
Power Systems Failures	Wellfield Contaminations	Epidemics/Pandemics	Radiological Accidents
Hazardous Materials Accidents	Transportation Systems Accidents	Communications Failures	
Human Caused Hazards			
Terrorism & Sabotage	Civil Disturbances	Mass Migration	Special Events

**A comprehensive analysis of the listed hazards can be found in the St. Lucie LMS.*

Special Events

St. Lucie County, with its continuous growth, is becoming a hub for multiple special events. Throughout the year, St. Lucie County is host to a myriad of venues including festivals, concerts, sporting events, political events, cultural events and many events of varying sizes. These events attract or have the potential to attract large crowds. Under normal conditions, these events take

place with minimal or no issues. However, when there is an incident, either as a result of a natural or human-made hazard, local emergency management and response agencies may become involved. Mass gatherings are potential targets for terrorist events.

- **Probability:** By definition, a special event may be a one time or infrequent event such as the Gubernatorial Debate, or an event that takes place on a regular basis such as the New York Mets Spring Training at Clover Park and the St. Lucie County Fair. In either instance, extensive interagency planning will be required to implement the appropriate safety and security measures.
- **Magnitude, Scope, and Severity:** The amount of planning and incident command mobilization during the event will vary greatly on the size of the expected event and other factors such as local versus national or international participation, media interest, event profiles which may be a draw for possible terrorism or civil unrest and pre-event intelligence. Security and command and control operations may be limited to an on-scene incident command for smaller or more routine events, to a partial or full-scale St. Lucie County EOC activation for larger or more significant events.
- **Vulnerable Population:** Typically, the vulnerable populations are the event participants, support staff and attendees. However, emergency responders cannot discount security risks to related gatherings such as increased populations in downtown area, beaches, etc.
- **Costs:** Costs resulting from incidents taking place at special events vary greatly depending on the scope of the event. Sponsoring agencies such as corporations, NGOs and NPOs may defray some of these costs. Depending on the scope and nature of the incident, government grants and programs such as Public Assistance (PA) grants, Individual Assistance (IA) grants and Small Business Administration (SBA) loans may be available to affected agencies/individuals. For incidents involving criminal or terrorist attacks, it is expected that significant Federal, State, and local resources will be brought to bear to deal with the crisis and consequence management of the incident.

3.2. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

St. Lucie County occupies approximately 688 total square. Approximately 116 square miles of this area is water, and 572 square miles is land. These figures include the municipalities of Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie, and St. Lucie Village. The City of Fort Pierce, the county seat, is located in the northern section of the County. St. Lucie county is located on the east coast of Florida about 120 miles southeast of Orlando and about 115 miles north of Miami. St. Lucie County is about 29 miles wide at its widest east-west point, and 24 miles long at its longest point north to south. The Atlantic Ocean beachfront area is approximately 21 miles long and forms the county's eastern boundary, and Okeechobee County forms the western boundary. Geographically, the County is divided into three primary regions, the Atlantic Coastal Ridge (including the barrier islands), the Eastern Valley and Osceola Plain.

3.2.1. Topography

The mainland topography of St. Lucie County is generally low in elevation, without significant deviation. However, two ridges parallel the coast, one about 1 mile inland from the Indian River with elevations up to 30 feet, the other about 10 miles inland with similar elevations. The coastal barrier islands have typical dune topography with dune elevations of about 15 feet.

The vast citrus and ranching areas of central and western St. Lucie County are contained within the areas known as the Sebastian/St. Lucie Flats, Allapattah Flats and Osceola Flats. Except where drained for agricultural activities, these areas are characteristically pocketed with surface wetlands and have limited natural drainage. Elevations in this area are in the range of 30 to 60 feet above sea level, with the general fall of the land being from northwest to the southeast. Drainage of this area is provided by the North Fork of the St. Lucie River and a network of human-caused canals and ditches that are interconnected with main relief canals that drain into the Indian River Lagoon and the North Fork of the St. Lucie River.

The Atlantic Coastal Ridge forms the eastern border of the County and includes the coastal barrier island, locally known as North and South Hutchinson Island. Elevations range from Sea Level to about 15 to 17 feet above Sea Level along the western shorelines of the Indian River Lagoon. The western terminus of the Atlantic Coastal Ridge lies along the shoreline of the Indian River south of Ft. Pierce and along the U.S. Highway 1 alignment north of Fort Pierce.

3.2.2. Land Use Patterns

More than two thirds of the total land area is west of Interstate 95; however more than 90 percent of the population resides in the eastern third of the county and is vulnerable to the effects of both human caused and natural disasters. The eastern portion of the County can be divided into two major areas: the mainland and the barrier islands which is also locally known as North and South Hutchinson Island. The central and southern portion of the eastern mainland is the most highly developed area and contains the highest population concentration in the County. The north area of the mainland is beginning to experience slow development. Residential and commercial activities are mainly concentrated along the U.S. Highway 1 and east of the Interstate 95 corridor.

North and South Hutchinson Island are physically separated by the Ft. Pierce Inlet. A seven-mile portion of North Hutchinson lies within St. Lucie County. The Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park and the Jack Island State Preserve are located on the extreme south end of the island as well as several condominiums and the residential area known as Queens Cove. The island is accessible by four bridges that connect it to the mainland, one bridge is located in St. Lucie County, and the remaining three are located in Indian River County to the North. The bridge in St. Lucie County, locally known as "The North Bridge", is a two lane draw bridge which provides access to and from North Hutchinson Island at the extreme south end. A fifteen-mile portion of South Hutchinson Island lies within St. Lucie County. A portion of the city limits of Ft. Pierce occupies the northern 2.5 miles of the island and the southern 2.5 miles of the island is lined with condominiums and is a high area of tourist concentration. The St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant is also located on the island 9 miles south of the inlet. South Hutchinson Island is accessible by three bridges that connect it to the mainland. The one bridge in St. Lucie County, locally known

as “The South Bridge”, is a four-lane high rise bridge which provides access to and from South Hutchinson Island at the northern most end. Two bridges in Martin County provide accessibility to the island south of the St. Lucie County line. St. Lucie, Martin, and Indian River Counties’ law enforcement agencies, and the St. Lucie County EOC collaboratively coordinate to streamline evacuation efforts.

3.2.3. Water Area in Square Miles

There are approximately 116 square miles of surface water in St. Lucie County including Cypress Creek, Five Mile Creek, Indian River Lagoon, Long Creek, St. Lucie River, and Ten Mile Creek.

3.2.4. 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. The streams and canals in the central and western areas as well as those that discharge into the Indian River Lagoon and the North Fork of the St. Lucie River are subject to flooding from prolonged heavy rainfalls. Atlantic coastal areas of the county are subject to storm surge flooding resulting from hurricane activity. will also experience flooding from storm surge. Additional Flood information can be found in the St. Lucie County Local Mitigation Strategy.

3.2.5. Drainage Patterns

From a hazard perspective, especially in terms of flooding, drainage has been an important component in shaping overall development patterns within the County. Many canals and drainage ditches have been constructed throughout St. Lucie County. Primary canals and drainage include:

1. C-23 provides drainage for 168 square miles in southern St. Lucie, northern Martin, and eastern Okeechobee counties. C-23 and its structures remove excess water from the C-23 Basin, supply water to the basin (and, occasionally, to the C-24 Basin), and maintain ground water elevations west of S-48 to prevent saltwater intrusion into the local ground water.
2. C-24 provides drainage to 167 square miles in central St. Lucie and east central Okeechobee counties. C-24 and its control structures remove excess water from the C- 24 Basin, supply water to the basin, and maintain ground water table elevation west of S-49 adequate to prevent saltwater intrusion into the local ground water.
3. C-25 provides drainage to 165 square miles in northwest St. Lucie and eastern Okeechobee counties. C-25 control structures remove excess water from the C- 25 Basin, supply water to the basin (and occasionally, to the C-24 Basin), and maintain ground water table elevation west of S-50 adequate to prevent

saltwater intrusion into the local ground water.

4. Ten-Mile Creek is a natural tidally influenced waterway that drains 89 square miles of western St. Lucie County. Ten-Mile Creek's most downstream water control structure is located just west of the Florida Turnpike, at Gordy Road. This structure and the upstream reaches are owned and operated by the North St. Lucie River Water Control District (NSLRWCD). From the Gordy Road structure, tidally influenced water travels downstream to the North Fork of the St. Lucie River and the St. Lucie Estuary. The Midway Road Bridge at Ten-Mile Creek is the northern limit of the North Fork Aquatic Preserve, an important ecological habitat that is highly protected and tightly regulated under state laws.
5. Five-Mile Creek is an unimproved natural waterway that serves as one of the major tributaries of the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. It extends from its confluence with Ten-Mile Creek at S. 25th Street north to Canal 44 for about 5-miles, draining an overall area of about 19 square miles (including portions of the City of Ft. Pierce). A double 12 x 12 box culvert is located at State Road 70 and is maintained by the NSLRWCD, thus allowing for greater control of water upstream for water conservation purposes. Five-Mile Creek averages about 50-feet in width and historically has created flooding problems near State Road 70. The 1990 FEMA flood study estimates flood stages at Five-Mile Creek upstream to Peterson Road.
6. Header Canal is a nine-mile-long man-made channel, Header Canal lies 3-miles east of, and parallel with, the western boundary of the NSLRWCD. It collects runoff from 18 individual canals that extend west, serving an overall drainage area of about 27 square miles. Header Canal has three control structures that allow for water to be held higher in the northern and southern portions. Header canal also has two pump stations (100,000 gallons/minute) that can deliver water to the C24 and C25 canals.
7. Ft. Pierce Farms Water Control District (Canal #1) was originally created in 1919 and was designed to drain about 24,000 acres via 74 miles of man-made canal. Originating in western agricultural areas in the northern part of the County, all District canals eventually drain to the 11-mile-long Canal #1 (Main Canal) which then discharges into the lower reaches of the C25 canal near US1 and Juanita Ave. One mile downstream, all waters discharge into the Indian River Lagoon at Taylor Creek. Canal # 1 was redesigned and improved in the late 1960's and can transport runoff from a ten-year rain event, or about 2.6 inches of runoff in a 24-hour period.
8. The North Fork of the St. Lucie River is a natural waterway that serves as the major drainage conveyance for the C24 Canal, the C23 Canal, Ten-Mile Creek, the City of Ft. Pierce, and the City of Port St. Lucie. Drainage flows east into the St. Lucie Estuary where it eventually travels under the Roosevelt Bridge in

Martin County, intersects the Indian River Lagoon, and finally flows into the Atlantic Ocean via the St. Lucie Inlet. Within St. Lucie County, the North Fork is about 17 miles long. Seven natural tributaries run east and west from the North Fork, with tributaries running east serving the southern portions of the County near the Savannahs and US 1. The North Fork is tidally influenced for its entire length, with this influence affecting both Ten-mile and Five-Mile Creeks. The 1991 FEMA flood study estimates flood stages for the entire length of the North Fork.

3.2.6. Environmentally Sensitive Areas

The major ecological communities with St. Lucie County are South Florida Coastal Strand, Sand Pine/Xeric Scrub, South Florida Flatwoods, Tropical/Coastal Hammocks, Freshwater Wetlands, Indian River Lagoon and Associated Estuarine Wetlands and Nearshore Atlantic Ocean.

Of particular concern are those ecological communities located in the eastern portion of the county, where development pressures conflict with the preservation of diminishing habitats. Tropical hammock communities and coastal scrub communities are examples of habitats found almost exclusively in Florida that are in danger of disappearing or being drastically reduced, along with their unique flora and fauna. A balance of natural system preservation and the rights of property owners to develop land is an important issue to be considered as county population and development growth continues.

St. Lucie County maintains approximately 38 parks totaling 1,450 acres, 19 beach access areas, 14 boat launches, 12 beach-front parks, 22 landscaped government sites, 23 baseball fields, 3 stadiums, and several community centers. There are three State Parks located in St. Lucie County: Fort Pierce Inlet State Park, Avalon State Park, and Savannahs Preserve State Park. The Fort Pierce Inlet State Park consists of 340 acres of land located on the southern tip of North Hutchinson Island including wide sandy beaches and 1,500 feet of frontage on the Fort Pierce Inlet. Avalon State Park has more than a mile of undeveloped beachfront. The Savannahs Preserve State Park is the last remaining freshwater marsh with multi-use trails and wildlife viewing.

To date, St. Lucie County has acquired approximately 11,000 acres under the Environmentally Significant Lands Program. The purpose of the program is to purchase land with the intent of preserving ecologically unique communities, to protect and restore ecosystems to their natural state both upland and wetland to preserve endangered and threatened species, to maintain natural flood protection thereby providing water quality while providing compatible public use. Areas currently protected under this program include: Ancient Oaks, Avalon Addition, Blind Creek, Bluefield Ranch, Indrio North Savannahs, South Savanna Buffer Preserve, Kinds Island, North Fork of the St. Lucie River, Ocean Bay, Paleo Hammock, Spruce Bluff, Queen's Island, Pinelands, D.J. Wilcox Preserve, George LeStrange Preserve, Gordy Road Recreation Area, Lakewood Park Preserve, Sheraton Scrub, St. Lucie Village Heritage Park, Sweetwater Hammock Preserve, Teague Hammock, Walton Scrub, and Wildcat Cove.

3.2.7. Climate

St. Lucie County is considered a sub-tropical climate and experiences approximately 80 thunderstorm days a year. Annually the County averages 132 days of measurable precipitation, 74 clear days, 150 partly cloudy days and 132 cloudy days. Annual rainfall is approximately 57 inches. Ninety percent of the time, the prevailing wind direction is from the east – the Atlantic Ocean. This keeps the immediate coastal area cool in summer and warm in winter.

3.3. DEMOGRAPHICS

The LMS Plan serves as St. Lucie County’s main risk and vulnerability assessment. If specific demographics are vulnerable to hazards, it is identified in the LMS. The information below provides supplemental information of the County Profile and the Risk Assessment sections of the latest LMS.

3.3.1. Total Population

According to census data, St. Lucie County’s population growth increased from 277,789 in 2010 to approximately 329,226 in 2020, a roughly a 19% increase in ten years. St. Lucie County is the 20th most populous county in the state, with approximately 1.6% of Florida’s population. The Treasure Coast has experienced tremendous growth since the 1960's, and this trend is expected to continue. Much of the growth has occurred and is expected to continue to occur in proximity to the City of Port St. Lucie, the fastest growing area in St. Lucie County. By 2045, the County population is expected to reach 450,300.

Table 2.2: St. Lucie County Census Population, 2020

Jurisdiction	Population
Fort Pierce	47,297
Port St. Lucie	204,851
Unincorporated St. Lucie County	76,465
St. Lucie Village	613
Total	329,226

Source: U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts, Population Census, April 1, 2020

3.3.2. Population Density

The majority of St. Lucie County’s population is located east of Interstate 95. This represents over 90% of the county’s population. Current estimates indicate St. Lucie County’s population density is approximately 576 persons per square mile of land.

3.3.3. Distribution by Age

Population growth is especially important to emergency planners when the increases in specific age groups are reviewed. Since 2010, St. Lucie County’s senior population, identified as those

persons 65 years and older, has continued to increase and contribute to an increase in the median age. The most recent estimates indicate that individuals aged 65 or older represent approximately 25% of the total population of the County and the median age is 45.2 years (2019 American Community Study 1-Year Estimates). In order to assist in the successful mitigation of future disaster events, emergency planners must closely monitor this aging trend. The table below describes the distribution of St. Lucie County’s population by age group, as derived from the most current U.S. age distribution and population estimates available.

Table 2.3: St. Lucie County’s Population by Age Group

Total Population	Population Estimate (2019)	Percent
Under 5 years	16,352	5.0%
5 to 9 years	15,820	4.8%
10 to 14 years	21,049	6.4%
15 to 19 years	18,088	5.5%
20 to 24 years	16,685	5.1%
25 to 34 years	36,644	11.2%
35 to 44 years	38,835	11.8%
45 to 54 years	37,546	11.4%
55 to 59 years	23,684	7.2%
60 to 64 years	22,461	6.8%
65 to 74 years	43,808	13.3%
75 to 84 years	30,301	9.2%
85 years and over	7,024	2.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates: Demographic and Housing Estimates

3.3.4. Special Needs Population

St. Lucie County has over 550 persons currently registered in the special needs registry with the County as requiring assistance with transportation, and/or medical sheltering needs in the event of a disaster. This may be due to access, age, infirmity, illness, or vulnerability. These citizens require assistance with daily living, whether it is mobility assistance, medical assistance or simply transportation assistance. The average special needs client in St. Lucie County is over 65 years old, lives alone or with a spouse, suffers from chronic illness, and may be cared for in the home by a home health agency. The largest populations of special needs clients live Port St. Lucie in single family homes. This number is expected to rise during an event when people with special needs who have not pre-registered arrive at a shelter.

3.3.5. Farm Workers

Agricultural production and processing are an important component of the County’s economy. The seasonal nature of citrus production requires the use of migrant labor during peak harvesting season (February/March). In 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the County was home to approximately 1,500 farmworkers.

3.3.6. Areas of Large Tourism

The Atlantic beaches and sub-tropical climate provide the basis for year-round tourism, with peak influx during the winter months. Though it is not known as to what the actual seasonal population is, (those who reside or visit for a period less than 6 months), it is estimated to be near 20,000.

3.3.7. Non-English Speaking

Nearly 23.4% of residents speak a language other than English at home, a 9.4% increase from the 2010 census data of 14%.

3.3.8. Transient/Homeless Population

In January of 2021, the Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council estimated that there was a total of 814 homeless individuals. This included 693 adults and 121 children, a 41% decrease from 2020.

3.3.9. Mobile Home Parks and Population

There are approximately 44 mobile home/recreational vehicle parks located within St. Lucie County. This figure equates to 6,502 dwellings or a population of approximately 15,000 (5% of the total population). To ensure the safety and wellbeing of mobile home residents during hurricane conditions, these communities would be among the first to be issued an evacuation order.

3.3.10. Inmate Population

There is one (1) correctional facility in St. Lucie County. The daily average inmate population at the St. Lucie County Jail is 1,313. The 2021 annual intake was 7,429 inmates.

3.3.11. At Risk Population

All populations within St. Lucie County are susceptible to the hazards outlined in *Table 2.1: Hazards That May Affect St. Lucie County*. The central and southern portion of the eastern mainland is the most highly developed area and contains the highest population concentration in the County. Any part of the County can be impacted by weather events, hazmat incidents, transportation incidents, and civil disturbance events. The largest at-risk population is located in the areas along the western shoreline of the Indian River Lagoon north of Ft. Pierce, a small portion at the south county line, as well as shoreline areas along the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, as well as the barrier islands known locally as North and South Hutchinson Island.

3.4. ECONOMIC PROFILE

The following information is intended to provide an overview of St. Lucie County’s current economic profile. Potential economic impacts that the county can expect to suffer from the impact of hazards can be found in the LMS.

3.4.1. Employment by Sector

St. Lucie County has long been a popular resort area, attracting thousands of visitors and residents for our array of recreational and entertainment activities, and our lifestyle. Table 2.4 lists the five largest employers in St. Lucie County as of February 2019.

Table 2.4: St. Lucie County’s Top 5 Employers (2019)

Rank	Employer	Number of Employees
1	St. Lucie County School District	5,564
2	Indian River State College	2,338
3	HCA Florida Lawnwood Hospital	1,615
4	Teleperformance	1,600
5	City of Port St. Lucie	1,164

Source: Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County 2019

Employment warrants expanded discussion, the sectors employing significant populations within the communities of the County, and if impacted by an incident or disaster, the economy w be severely crippled – mitigation and recovery are paramount to the economic health of the County as a whole. The below table shows that the highest percentage of employment occurs in the Professional & Business Services (19.7%), Trades, Transportation & Utilities (18.8%), Construction (15.5%) and Education & Health Services (14.2%) industries. The Generally, the County and region rely and are somewhat dependent on tourism, marine recreation, major and minor league baseball training, and student spring break

Table 2.4.a: Employment by Industry in 2020

Industry	St. Lucie County	Florida
Professional & Business Services	19.7%	24.5%
Trades, Transportation, & Utilities	18.8%	19.1%
Construction	15.5%	10.2%
Education & Health Services	14.2%	11.5%
Financial	9.0%	11.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	8.1%	8.0%
Other Services	7.3%	7.4%
Manufacturing	2.8%	2.9%
Government	1.2%	0.8%
Information	1.0%	1.8%
Natural Resources & Mining	0.8%	0.7%

Source: Office of Economic Demographic Research

In addition, the County is a thoroughfare for major commerce and transport of goods and soon to be passenger rail, a working port, an international airport, and major highways that link south Florida to the rest of the State.

As noted in *Table 2.4.a: Employment by Industry in 2020*, the County's highest employment sectors are sectors essential too. Health services are significant and critical to the populations for services and safety. Resiliency is essential to disaster recovery, whether catastrophic from hurricanes, tropical storms, tornados, or other natural disasters, or from man-made or technological emergencies or incidents, such as disruption of services (electrical, internet, etc.) via terrorism incidents, cyberterrorism or accidents.

Since the potential economic impact the county can expect to suffer from the various hazards previously identified cannot be predicted, pre-planning is always emphasized. Recommendations for businesses on how to accelerate the recovery process and create disaster-resistant businesses and jobs remain a focus of our public outreach efforts.

3.4.2. Unemployment

Data obtained from the August 2021 Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Local Area Unemployment Statistics indicates that St. Lucie County's unemployment rate as 6.1%.

3.4.3. Average Property Values

According to the US Census, the median value of owner-occupied housing units is \$231,000.

3.4.4. Per Capita Income

According to the US Census, the per capita income for St. Lucie County is \$31,289.

The median household income in St. Lucie County is \$58,038 slightly below the State of Florida average of \$59,227. The population living below poverty in the County is estimated to be 9.7% for all ages reported.

3.5. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SUPPORT FACILITIES

The following subsections detail the facilities that support emergency management operations and resources.

3.5.1. Critical Facilities

St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division personnel and local municipalities have identified all critical facilities required for an immediate emergency response following a major emergency/disaster event, and other facilities or areas necessary to support recovery

operations. This information is maintained in the St. Lucie County EOC and is updated annually by assigned Emergency Management Division personnel.

Critical facilities are defined as those structures from which essential services are performed and are necessary for human survival, communications, emergency response, and recovery efforts. St. Lucie County maintains a list of critical facilities within the County and stored in the EOCs internal network.

Categories of critical facilities have been identified to include:

- Emergency Operations Center
- Fire and Rescue Facilities
- Law Enforcement Facilities
- Banking and Finance
- Utilities and Electrical Distribution Components
- Health/Medical Facilities
- Transportation Networks
- Communications Network Components
- Public Buildings
- Emergency Service Facilities
- Water Distribution/Drainage Facilities
- Wastewater Facilities
- Schools
- Critical Records Storage
- Public Shelters (general functional, and special medical needs)
- Airport
- Seaport

3.5.2. County Staging Areas (CSAs)

St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division has identified suitable locations throughout the County for use CSAs. These sites are readily accessible to rail, roadway, and air carriers for the assembly of personnel, supplies, and equipment prior to deployment to affected area(s). CSAs are as follow:

- **North:** Treasure Coast International Airport and Business Park
 - 3000 Curtis King Blvd, Fort Pierce, FL 34946
 - 27.488439452517724, -80.36597727349813
- **Central:** Gwenda Thompson Governmental Center
 - 3855 US-1, Fort Pierce, FL 34982
 - 27.39103441845028, -80.32878586098228
- **South:** Clover Park
 - 31 Piazza Dr., Port St. Lucie, FL 34986
 - 27.325344436259325, -80.4045863744754
- **West:** St. Lucie County Fairgrounds

- 15601 Midway Rd, Fort Pierce, FL 34945
- 27.367813252458188, -80.48757796098295

3.5.3. Points of Distributions (PODS)

PODS are locations where the public can pick up life sustaining commodities following a disaster or emergency. These sites may also server as Points of Dispensing (PODs) of medical supplies and vaccines, should a pandemic impact the county. Points of Distributions typically serve as places where the public can obtain food and water, should local grocery stores become unavailable. PODS are as follow:

- **North:**
 - Treasure Coast International Airport and Business Park,
 - 3000 Curtis King Blvd, Fort Pierce, FL 34946
 - 27.488439452517724, -80.36597727349813

 - Lakewood Park Regional Park
 - 5990 Emerson Ave, Fort Pierce, FL 34951
 - 27.539697604812716, -80.41185323616293

 - Indrio Crossing
 - 4846 N Kings Hwy, Fort Pierce, FL 34951
 - 27.522295111037522, -80.39677841865085

- **Central:**
 - Havert L. Fenn Center
 - 2000 Virginia Ave, Fort Pierce, FL 34982
 - 27.426305043773585, -80.34447824749009

 - Lawnwood Sports Complex
 - 1302 Virginia Ave, Fort Pierce, FL 34950
 - 27.426173974897015, -80.33852309571331

- **Southeast:**
 - Mid-Florida Event Center
 - 9221 Southeast Event Center Place, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952
 - 27.297428457569215, -80.29874484563987

- **Southcentral:**
 - McChesney Park
 - 1585 SW Cashmere Blvd, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986
 - 27.296765466157044, -80.38164941108532

- **West:**
 - St. Lucie County Fairgrounds
 - 15601 Midway Rd, Fort Pierce, FL 34945
 - 27.367879948421926, -80.48763160516454

3.5.4. Logistics Center

County resources are stored at County's Logistics Center (Gwenda Thompson Governmental Center).

3.5.5. Emergency Helicopter Landing Zones

Emergency Helicopter Landing Zones have been identified as strategic locations that can be used by the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, St. Lucie County Fire District, Florida National Guard, and other military organizations to expeditiously bring supplies and relief efforts. The coordinates for these locations have been transmitted to the appropriate agencies. Current designated landing zones:

- **Hospitals (All Sites Require Notice):**
 - HCA Florida Lawnwood Hospital,
1700 S 23rd St, Fort Pierce, FL 34950
27.432887457882845, -80.34604444377068
 - St. Lucie Medical Center,
1800 SE Tiffany Ave, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952
27.28857808872005, -80.29286634711617
 -
 - Cleveland Clinic Tradition Hospital
10000 SW Innovation Way, Port St. Lucie, FL 34987
27.26182663862452, -80.4240431551528
- **Fire Stations (Require Notice):**
 - St. Lucie County Fire District – Fire Station 13
201 SE Becker Rd, Port St. Lucie, FL 34984
27.211153877662603, -80.33025053082042
 -
- **Airport:**
 - Treasure Coast International Airport and Business Park
3000 Curtis King Blvd, Fort Pierce, FL 34946
27.488418716448592, -80.36598965803732
 -
- **Other:**
 - St. Lucie County EOC
15305 Midway Rd, Fort Pierce, FL 34945
27.37204480433792, -80.48192152621966

3.5.6. Field Hospital

Sites have been identified to serve as Field Hospitals should the necessity arise from local hospitals becoming overwhelmed by surge of patients and walking wounded, or to safely

implement decontamination from affected persons from hazardous materials including but not limited to radiation. Identified sites are as follow:

- **North:**
 - Lakewood Park Library
 - 7605 Santa Barbara Dr, Fort Pierce, FL 34951
 - 27.523344799323805, -80.40178285313081

- **Central:**
 - Lawnwood Sports Complex
 - 1302 Virginia Ave, Fort Pierce, FL 34950
 - 27.426173974897015, -80.33852309571331

- **Southeast:**
 - Mid-Florida Event Center
 - 9221 Southeast Event Center Place, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952
 - 27.297428457569215, -80.29874484563987

4. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

The following sections describe St. Lucie County's organization, authority, direction and control, and structure for emergency management operations. The Concept of Operations focuses primarily on response and relief efforts and measures to ensure a smooth transition into immediate and long-term recovery from a major or catastrophic disaster. Organizational charts and matrices outlining assignments of responsibilities and functional roles during a disaster response are provided in Appendix 3.

4.1. ST. LUCIE COUNTY GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

St. Lucie County operates under the authority of the five members of the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners, five Constitutional Officers (Sheriff, Clerk of Court, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, and Supervisor of Elections), the St. Lucie County Fire District, and the School Board. Each is directly accountable to the citizens of St. Lucie County, independent of each other, and responsible for the administration of their respective departments/agencies.

4.1.1. Day-to-Day Structure of St. Lucie County Government

The St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners has legal authority to coordinate, control, and direct the actions and programs of the County departments directly under its organizational structure as exemplified in Appendix 1.

Each of the remaining County governmental authorities (School Board, Sheriff, Clerk of Court, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, and Supervisor of Elections) retains the independent authority and legal responsibilities vested in them as government entities or Constitutional Officers of St. Lucie County.

Additionally, municipalities, the School Board, and special districts – such as St. Lucie County Fire District – do not fall under the direct control of the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners. These entities also retain their independent authority and decision-making consistent with their legal responsibilities. As stated above, however, they are required to coordinate their emergency management actions and plans with that of St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division.

4.1.2. Key Government Officials

The following details the key government officials (in order of succession) who will assume leadership authority and responsibility in emergency situations for issues within the county's scope of authority:

1. County Administrator
2. Public Safety Director

4.1.3. Authority to Conduct Emergency Management

The St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners bears the legal authority for establishing and maintaining the County's emergency management agency. In keeping with the legal responsibility, and to respect the authority of the remaining units of government, St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division closely coordinates efforts with municipalities, local, state, and federal government, private sector, and non-governmental organizations.

To bridge the gap among governmental, non-governmental, and private agencies with respect to emergency planning, all governmental entities, as well as those non-governmental or private agencies with responsibilities under the CEMP are required to coordinate their actions pertaining to preparedness, prevention, response, recovery, and mitigation with St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division. Generally, this is accomplished via preparedness organizations throughout the year. Additionally, their plans and procedures must be consistent with the St. Lucie County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (Chapter 252, Florida Statutes).

4.2. ACTIVATION OF THE ST. LUCIE CEMP

Section 18-21 of the St. Lucie County Code of Ordinances details the declaration of a Local State of Emergency (LSE). It is upon declaration of an LSE by the County Administrator, advised by the Public Safety Director, informed by the Emergency Operations Manager, that the CEMP is activated.

4.3. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Emergency Operations are those actions taken by St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division to support the Incident Commander (typically through the Emergency Operations Center) and area responders in the field.

Most incidents will be managed locally by emergency responders within a single jurisdiction and St. Lucie County Public Safety Communications Center (911 Dispatch Center) staff. In some cases, incidents that begin under one jurisdiction/discipline may expand to incidents that cross disciplines and jurisdictional boundaries, requiring additional resources and support. The St. Lucie County Public Safety Director or designee has the authority to activate the EOC when conditions warrant the need for activation. St. Lucie County will utilize the resources available within its jurisdiction and request assistance if needed through existing mutual aid agreements as well as through the statewide mutual aid agreement.

4.3.1. Role of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

The St. Lucie County EOC is a facility designed to serve as a local or regional incident support center. The EOC represents the physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support incident management activities normally takes place. For complex incidents, personnel representing multiple jurisdictions, disciplines, and resources staff the EOC.

The lead function of the Emergency Operations Center is resource support for various incident sites, including the management of information and data. Most of the information that flows through an EOC deals with resource requests, resource tracking, resource allocation, and demobilization. There is also heavy message traffic relating to situation status, weather, damage assessment, and public information.

The EOC serves as a facility to assist in:

- Coordination
- Communications
- Resource deployment and tracking
- Information collection, analysis, and dissemination.

The EOC has multiple uses during non-emergency operations (e.g., training, etc.). The EOC is effective for supporting major planned events, where resource support, coordination, and public information is required. The St. Lucie County EOC is a 27,000 square-foot facility equipped with state-of-the-art technology equipment, fiber optics, and 100-by-100-foot helipad and enclosed generators for emergency power which allows the facility to be self-supporting. The building accommodates 300 people and can withstand winds up to 200 mph.

The facility is located at 15305 W. Midway Road Fort Pierce, FL 34945. In the event the EOC is threatened, the alternate site will be St. Lucie County IT Data Center 101 N. Rock Road Fort Pierce, FL 34945.

4.3.2. EOC Operations

When conditions warrant, and when the EOC is activated, those that will staff the EOC including representatives of municipalities, county departments, and key organizations are organized as shown in the EOC Organizational Chart in Appendix 2.

The County Emergency Operations Center will be activated under the following levels of activation:

Level III: Normal Operations/Monitoring	Level II: Partial Activation	Level I: Full Activation
<p>This is the normal day-to-day operational level for the Emergency Management Division (EMD) which IS continuously monitoring local, regional, national, and international events, evaluating potential threats, and analyzing their impact on St. Lucie County. Appropriate Division and County personnel, and support organizations are notified and informed through a variety of communication methods based on the urgency required of the incident/event.</p>	<p>Selected Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff are notified. The EOC is staffed by the Public Safety Department personnel, appropriate Sections, their staff, and outside agencies as required to meet the operational needs of the incident.</p>	<p>All lead and support agencies are notified. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is staffed by Public Safety Department personnel, the Command Staff, all Sections and Branches, their staff, as well as State and Federal representatives.</p>

The St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division Manager is considered the manager of the Emergency Operations Center (not necessarily of every incident) and mobilizes the necessary personnel and assets to support significant incidents.

Municipal representatives may make a request to the Public Safety Director or designee to staff the EOC remotely. The Public Safety Director will grant remote staffing requests based on the feasibility – if the municipal representative can easily access WebEOC, communicate with the EOC Liaison Officer, and has a consistently low volume of requests from positions in the EOC, the Public Safety Director may authorize them to work remotely. The Public Safety Director reserves the ability to call the municipal representative back to the EOC if remote communications prove difficult and/or the volume of requests to the municipality from other EOC positions increases considerably.

4.3.3. Warning and Dissemination

Notification, warning, and event updates are accomplished in several ways depending on the circumstances surrounding the incident. In the case of a tropical storm or hurricane, the St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division staff begins the notification process three to five days prior to the anticipated arrival of the storm. Events for which no warning is possible are handled in the most expeditious manner, either by radio, telephone, or email.

4.3.3.1. General Public

St. Lucie County must provide the public with sufficient advanced warning time for effective preparation and emergency plans to be implemented. The following warning systems are available to disseminate warnings and warning information to the public:

- Emergency Alert System (EAS)
- www.stlucieco.gov/eoc
- ALERT St. Lucie (Everbridge) county-wide alert and notification system
- NOAA Weather Alert Radio
- St. Lucie Public Information Line – (772) 460-3457 (Only When EOC is Activated)
- Volunteer amateur radio groups
- Local television and radio stations
- Public displays and dynamic message boards
- St. Lucie County social media

4.3.3.2. County Warning Point

Public Safety Communications Officers from St. Lucie County Public Safety Communications Center and St. Lucie County Fire District serves as the County's warning point 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Staff dispatch law enforcement, fire rescue, search and rescue, and emergency medical calls and monitor for situations and developing events. This is accomplished using a fully implemented priority dispatch system that structures caller interrogations, provides

pre- arrival instructions, enhances customer service, and matches the appropriate protocols for emergency response, mode, and configuration to the incident type and severity. The County Warning Point (772-465-5770) in conjunction with the Duty Officer program serves as the primary hub of communications with the State Watch Office, when the EOC is not activated.

4.3.3.3. EOC Personnel Notification

Emergency Management Division staff will have primary responsibility for initiating notifications to EOC staff identified as essential for the operation. Initial call downs may only require alerting limited staff members to physically report to the EOC, however all staff members will be notified and placed on standby. Contact is initiated via a combination of email and phone calls as determined most practical for the incident.

Complete procedures for EOC personnel notification can be found in the St. Lucie County EOC Activation Checklist.

4.3.4. Emergency Decision Making

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

1. Determining pre-emergency hazard time; pre-emergency hazard time is the amount of time between the onset of the event and the actual arrival of hazardous conditions.
2. 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 decision time.
3. Decision time is the amount of time available before the issuance of protective actions to allow adequate response time for the threatened population.
4. Execution time is the time available that allows for the completion of an emergency action before hazardous conditions are experienced. This would include mobilization time.
5. During the process of decision-making determination for the issuance of protective actions; providing assistance will be based on the following priority:
 - a. Life-Threatening Circumstances: A problem is directly linked to life threatening circumstances; such requests will receive priority.
 - b. Protection of Property: A threat exists for large-scale damage to property.

For Tropical Cyclones (Tropical Storms or Hurricanes):

1. Emergency protective actions, such as evacuations, are based on information gathered from Hurrevac, a hurricane tracking system. 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 Treasure Coast Regional Evacuation Study. St. Lucie County Evacuation times can be found in the [Treasure Coast Regional Evacuation Study](#).
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.

Operational responses to all situations will be based upon the following:

1. Availability of Resources: The Resource Unit, Logistics Section and Emergency Support Function (ESF) #7 must assess the availability of resources, consider anticipated problems, and identify the most effective method of meeting the request.
2. Location of Resources: The Resource Unit staff will identify the closest available resources.
3. Arrival Time: The Resource Unit staff will estimate the arrival time for resources.

4.3.5. Community Lifelines

Defined as indispensable services that enable the continuous operation of critical business and government functions and are critical to human health and safety, or economic security – are a construct developed by FEMA to increase effectiveness in disaster operations and better position agencies' responses to catastrophic events. Locally, the construct allows Emergency Management to characterize the incident and identify the root causes of priority issue areas, as well as distinguish the highest priorities and most complex issues from other incident information.

The overarching objective of any emergency response will be to stabilize and restore these lifelines. All functional areas within St. Lucie County's EOC organization play a role in at least one, if not multiple community lifelines.

4.3.6. Protective Actions

Protective actions are predetermined actions designed to protect the health and safety of the public during an emergency event that poses an imminent threat to the community. Protective actions can take many forms depending on the type of emergency. The protective actions addressed in this section are the primary actions taken during most emergency events. Not all emergencies warrant taking every action listed, nor do all emergencies require every action to be taken to the full extent. The level of protective actions required during an emergency is carefully evaluated to ensure the full protection of the public while remaining resource efficient.

Unless emergency circumstances do not allow, the Public Safety Director or designee will review all protective actions with the County Administrator, City Managers for each municipality, St. Lucie County Sheriff and St. Lucie County Fire District Chief prior to implementation.

Evacuations

Most evacuations will be local in scope and an emergency response Incident Commander will initiate actions following a decision. In such cases, the actions will be coordinated and administered by emergency response officials using local resources in accordance with operational procedures. In addition to the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement, it is anticipated that local jurisdictions will establish additional mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions to provide expanded resource capability. During any evacuation not requiring activation of the EOC, assistance will be provided under the various County agencies' normal statutory authority through coordination by St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division. For larger scale incidents the County may issue a declaration of a Local State of Emergency, and issue evacuation orders. The decision will be made in consultation with the Public Safety Director or designee, following his/her consultation with applicable members (County Administrator, City Managers for each municipality, St. Lucie County Sheriff and St. Lucie County Fire District Chief).

All County assistance and support of such actions will be coordinated from the EOC under the direction of the Public Safety Director or designee. This includes decisions on issues, such as deploying and pre-deploying personnel; determining evacuation 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. Information on evacuation zones and routes will be communicated to the public through the county website, Disaster Preparedness Guide and public outreach messages coordinated by the Communications Division Director (Public Information Officer). Depending on the event, public information messages will contain different recommendations for direction of evacuation. Emergency evacuation routes are depicted in Appendix 4.

Sheltering

The opening of shelters is a responsibility of Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) #6: Mass Care, ESF #8: Health and Medical, and ESF #17: Animal Care. Should a request for assistance be made to the EOC, all decisions made by the EOC will be based on the existing shelter operations procedures. The EOC will coordinate through the aforementioned ESFs, and any other ESFs or groups that will be needed to support shelter operations. General, pet-friendly, and special needs shelters will be opened as needed.

Complete details on sheltering operations can be found in the St. Lucie County Public Schools Hurricane, Sheltering & Facility Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan. Further details on shelter facilities and logistical considerations can be obtained through St. Lucie County Emergency Management staff.

Registration of Special/Functional Needs

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. Lucie County has established a program to register, transport and shelter this population.

Complete details on the process of registering Persons with Special Needs including receipt of application, information verification and triage, maintenance of registry, and contacting registrants during emergencies, can be found Special Needs Registry Standard Operating Guide.

Transportation

Transportation for residents, functional needs (special needs) clients, and those requiring assistance during evacuations is provided by the St. Lucie County Public Schools and/or the St. Lucie County Transit Department. If necessary, patients requiring basic or advanced life support while in transport will be taken by ambulance. Those requiring such support are determined by the Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County. If necessary, additional resources may be requested by Emergency Management through Statewide Mutual Aide Agreements (SMAA). Transportation services will also be provided once shelter operations cease when transporting individuals to interim or temporary housing, as well as to Disaster Recovery Centers to receive assistance with recovery efforts.

4.3.7. Relief Operations

Once the emergency has passed, coordination of relief operations will begin such as search and rescue operations, mass casualty activities, and the provision of emergency supplies, sheltering, preliminary damage assessment, emergency debris removal, and emergency restoration of utilities. 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 positions and groups in the EOC.

The Emergency Operations Center will serve as the primary local coordinating agency for requesting and managing resources and relief from state and federal sources. When warranted by the scale of the disaster, state and federal Emergency Response Teams will be established and deployed as soon as permissible. Ideally, if these Emergency Response Teams are deployed, they will be located in St. Lucie County at or near the Emergency Operations Center and will carry out all state and federal coordination and assistance functions.

When municipalities require relief resources and supplies beyond their existing resources, they will channel requests to their municipal liaison at the St. Lucie County EOC, who will create a WebEOC mission requesting the resource. The EOC position handling the specific type of request will determine whether fulfilling the request is possible locally, or whether the request must be forwarded to the state.

4.3.8. Activation of the National Response Framework (NRF)

Disaster response is locally executed, state managed, and federally supported. The State of Florida, through the Florida State Emergency Response Team (SERT), supplements local efforts before, during, and after incidents by applying in-state resources first. When an incident expands or has the potential to expand beyond the capabilities of St. Lucie County and the county cannot meet the needs with mutual aid and assistance resources, the Public Safety Director or designee will contact the state.

When it becomes apparent 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 Regional Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Regional Office in Atlanta and request activation of the Federal Response Plan (National Response Framework). Activation of this plan authorizes the mobilization of federal resources necessary to augment state and local response and recovery efforts.

The Federal Government may provide assistance in the form of funding, resources, and services. Federal departments and agencies respect the sovereignty and responsibilities of local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area governments, while rendering assistance that supports St. Lucie County. Further details about the overall structure and dynamics of a federal response can be found in the [National Response Framework](#) document.

4.3.9. Difference in Management Structure by Disaster Type

As detailed throughout the Concept of Operations section, St. Lucie County maintains a management structure for responding to and recovering from disasters that is designed to meet the unique needs of the county. The management structure may expand or collapse as governed by the needs of the incident. While the structure may be implemented in varying capacities, there will be no difference in the management based on the individual(s) in charge, type of disaster, or scope of disaster.

The EOC organizational structure is designed to effectively interface with the Incident Command System employed for all field operations. When warranted, area commands (or unified area commands) may also be established in keeping with the field Incident Command System while also maintaining consistency with the EOC organizational structure.

4.3.10. Other Agencies/Organizations

During non-emergency activities, other response agencies, organizations, facilities, departments, etc. operate under their respective organizational structures and are managed according to the individual agency’s policies and Standard Operating Guides. Their emergency management activities will be coordinated with those of St. Lucie County, either through the various emergency preparedness organizations, or through St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division.

4.3.11. Command, Lead, and Support Agencies

The following figure details the respective lead and support agencies/organizations for the functional roles under St. Lucie County’s EOC organizational structure. The tables below align each role with corresponding state and federal Emergency Support Functions (ESFs).

COMMAND STAFF	
Incident Commander	
Determine best protective action decisions based on analyzed and validated information and guided by the County Administration. Additionally, develops clear and concise incident/event objectives, and identifies and resolve issues that could affect the outcome of the incident/event as needed.	
Legal Advisor	
Provides legal advice to the Incident Commander in all legal matters relative to the emergency.	
Liaison	
Coordinates with representatives from municipalities and external assisting and support agencies.	
Safety Officer	
Monitors incident operations, advises command on all matters related to operational safety, and is responsible for procedures to assess hazardous environments.	
Public Information Officer (PIO)	
Disseminate approved (by the Incident Commander) and official information related to the disaster to the public and inquiring media agencies and liaise with media agencies to arrange press briefings with the Incident Commander or designee.	
Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Communications Division Support Agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City of Fort Pierce PIO ▪ City of Port St. Lucie PIO ▪ St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office PIO ▪ St. Lucie County Fire District PIO ▪ St. Lucie County Public Schools PIO ▪ Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County PIO ▪ Elected and Appointed Officials messaging on behalf of their respective jurisdictions 	
Lead State Agency	Lead Federal Agency
Florida Division of Emergency Management	Federal Emergency Management Agency

Emergency Operations Center Manager

Facilitates the overall functioning of the EOC and serves as a resource to the Incident Commander. The EOC Manager will monitor the coordination of information, and the planning cycle of the EOC organization and will make adjustments as necessary to ensure the effective response and recovery of the county.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Operations Section Chief

Responsible for direct management of all operational activities and established tactical objectives for each operational period.

Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Public Utilities

Support Agencies: St. Lucie County Public Works

Emergency Support Function #3: Public Works and Engineering

Coordinate all Public Works operations and resources, including securing all Public Works infrastructure as possible prior to a disaster, and assessing damage/working to restore infrastructure after a disaster.

Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Public Works

Support Agencies:

- City of Fort Pierce Public Works
- City of Port St. Lucie Public Works
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Florida Power and Light
- Fort Pierce Utilities Authority
- South Florida Water Management District

Lead State Agency

Florida Department of Transportation

Lead Federal Agency

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Emergency Support Function #4: Firefighting

Coordinate all Public Works operations and resources, including securing all Public Works infrastructure as possible prior to a disaster, and assessing damage/working to restore infrastructure after a disaster.

Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Fire District

- St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department

Lead State Agency

Florida Department of Financial Services,
Division of State Fire Marshal

Lead Federal Agency

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Emergency Support Function #8: Health and Medical

Identify health and medical needs of the entire county before, during, and after a disaster. This group is also responsible for coordinating the health and medical resources needed in responding to public health and medical care needs before, during, and after a disaster. This group is the lead for the management of the Special Needs shelter.

Lead Agency: Florida Department of Health – St. Lucie County

Support Agencies:

- City of Fort Pierce
- City of Port St. Lucie
- St. Lucie County Fire District
- St. Lucie County Public Safety Department
- St. Lucie County Transit Department
- HCA Hospitals
- Cleveland Clinic

Lead State Agency

Florida Department of Health

Lead Federal Agency

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Emergency Support Function #9: Search and Rescue

Coordinate all Public Works operations and resources, including securing all Public Works infrastructure as possible prior to a disaster, and assessing damage/working to restore infrastructure after a disaster.

Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Fire District

Support Agencies:

- City of Fort Pierce Police Department
- City of Port St. Lucie Police Department
- St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office

Lead State Agency

Florida Department of Financial Services,
Division of State Fire Marshal

Lead Federal Agency

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Emergency Support Function #10: Hazardous Materials

Coordinate all Public Works operations and resources, including securing all Public Works infrastructure as possible prior to a disaster, and assessing damage/working to restore infrastructure after a disaster.

Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Fire District

Support Agencies:

- City of Fort Pierce Police Department
- City of Port St. Lucie Police Department
- Florida Department of Health – St. Lucie County
- St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office

Lead State Agency

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Lead Federal Agency

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Emergency Support Function #16: Law Enforcement & Security	
To provide law enforcement coordination and response services in support of emergency events.	
Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office	
Support Agencies:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City of Fort Pierce Police Department ▪ City of Port St. Lucie Police Department ▪ Florida Highway Patrol ▪ Florida Department of Law Enforcement ▪ Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ▪ Florida National Guard ▪ St. Lucie County Public Safety Department 	
Lead State Agency	Lead Federal Agency
Florida Department of Law Enforcement	U.S. Department of Justice
LOGISTICS SECTION	
Logistics Section Chief	
Coordinate logistical support to all disaster-related operations including obtaining resources and providing procedures for acquiring and distributing resources.	
Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation	
Support Agencies:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ St. Lucie County Facilities ▪ St. Lucie County Public Works 	
Emergency Support Function #1: Transportation	
Coordinate public transportation of St. Lucie County residents to and from shelters – including the coordination of transporting special needs registrants with medical supplies/machinery – as well as to and from Disaster Recovery Centers and additional transport as needed.	
Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Public Schools	
Support Agencies:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Florida Department of Health – St. Lucie County ▪ St. Lucie County Public Safety Department ▪ St. Lucie County Transit Department 	
Lead State Agency	Lead Federal Agency
Florida Department of Transportation	U.S. Department of Transportation
Emergency Support Function #2: Communications	
provides communications resource support during disaster situations in an effort to maintain communication links to all response operations in support of the EOC effort.	
Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Public Safety Department	
Support Agencies:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ St. Lucie County Fire District Dispatch ▪ Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) ▪ St. Lucie County Information Technology Department ▪ Motorola Solutions, Inc. ▪ AT&T, Inc. 	

Lead State Agency	Lead Federal Agency
Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Telecommunications	Federal Emergency Management Agency

Emergency Support Function #6: Mass Care

Addresses the management and coordination of emergency services necessary for the care and support of individuals displaced by a disaster event in St. Lucie County. The scope of this ESF encompasses sheltering of individuals evacuating threatened areas, as well as providing care for disaster victims remaining in damaged areas experiencing prolonged disruption to utilities and other fundamental community services.

Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Public Schools
Support Agencies:

- American Red Cross
- City of Fort Pierce
- City of Port St. Lucie
- Florida Department of Health – St. Lucie County
- St. Lucie County Community Services Department
- St. Lucie County Facilities Department
- St. Lucie County Fire District
- St. Lucie County Human Services Department
- St. Lucie County Parks & Recreation Department
- St. Lucie County Public Safety Department
- St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office
- St. Lucie County Transit Department

Lead State Agency	Lead Federal Agency
Florida Department of Children and Families	Federal Emergency Management Agency

Emergency Support Function #11: Food & Water

Assemble, manage, and demobilize Points of Distribution (PODs) under the direction of the Logistics Section to distribute food, water, ice, or other commodities as warranted to impacted residents’ post-disaster.

Lead Agency: Treasure Coast Food Bank
Support Agencies:

- St. Lucie County Public Safety Department
- St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation
- St. Lucie County Facilities Department

Lead State Agency	Lead Federal Agency
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	U.S. Department of Agriculture & U.S. Department of Interior

Emergency Support Function #12: Energy & Utility

Establish response activities of the energy organizations and utilities in responding to and recovering from fuel shortages, power outages and capacity shortages which impact or threaten to impact St. Lucie County during and after a disaster.

Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Public Utilities

Support Agencies:

- Florida Power & Light
- Fort Pierce Utility Authority

Lead State Agency

Public Service Commission and Florida Energy and Climate Commission

Lead Federal Agency

U.S. Department of Energy

Emergency Support Function #13: Military Support

Provide military support coordination including personnel and resources to support post-disaster operations.

Lead Agency: Florida National Guard

Lead State Agency

Florida Department of Military Affairs, Florida National Guard

Lead Federal Agency

U.S. Department of Defense, National Guard Bureau

Emergency Support Function #15: Volunteers & Donations

Encompasses soliciting selected goods or services to be donated; coordinating the receipt, sorting and storing of donated goods, whether solicited or unsolicited; assigning volunteers to response and recovery operations; and distributing donated goods to support agencies and directly to disaster victims.

Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Community Services Department

Support Agencies:

- St. Lucie County Public Safety Department

Lead State Agency

Volunteer Florida

Lead Federal Agency

National Volunteers Active in Disasters

Emergency Support Function #17: Animal Care

Coordinates the response of County agencies by assisting local and volunteer organizations to provide all animals affected by the disaster with emergency medical care; evacuation; rescue; temporary confinement, shelter, food and water; and identification for return to the owner.

Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Animal Safety, Services and Protection Division

Support Agencies:

- City of Fort Pierce Animal Control
- City of Port St. Lucie Animal Control
- Florida Department of Health – St. Lucie County
- St. Lucie County Extension Services/IFAS
- St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office – Agricultural Unit

Lead State Agency

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Lead Federal Agency

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Information Technology Unit	
Provide protection and restoration of the county telephone and data network system of communications within their scope. County lead for cybersecurity incidents. Provide telecommunications equipment and software support for the EOC. Support Alert St. Lucie, WebEOC, and GIS technologies and hardware.	
Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Information Technology Department Support Agencies: St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division	
EOC Services Unit	
Ensures the smooth and constant operation of the facility during any activation of the EOC, regardless of incident type or capability demands. The Unit ensures the facility is prepared to activate. Additionally, it supports the facility throughout activation and ensures the facility is returned to its pre-activation state and prepared for the next activation. All issues relating to the daily operation and maintenance of the EOC during activation fall under the purview of the EOC Services Unit.	
Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Public Safety Department Support Agencies: St. Lucie County Facilities Department	
PLANNING SECTION	
Emergency Support Function #5: Information and Planning Planning Section Chief	
Oversees all incident-related data, conducts planning meetings and participates in briefings throughout the day to gain intel as needed, approves Situation Reports, and prepares Incident Action Plans (IAPs).	
Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Planning and Development Services Department Support Agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department ▪ St. Lucie County Public Safety Department 	
Lead State Agency	Lead Federal Agency
Florida Division of Emergency Management	Federal Emergency Management Agency
Emergency Support Function #18: Business & Industry	
Provide guidance and coordinate issues with St. Lucie County's business community throughout incident preparation, response, and recovery.	
Lead Agency: mall Business Development Center at Indian River State College	
Lead State Agency	Lead Federal Agency
Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development and Department of Revenue	U.S. Small Business Administration
Mission & Resources Unit	
Monitors and tracks all missions and resource requests entered into our emergency management information platform, WebEOC.	
Situation Unit	
Responsible for the collection, organization, and analysis of incident status information, and	

for analysis of the situation as it progresses.	
Documentation Unit	
Responsible for collecting, recording, and safeguarding all documents relevant to the incident.	
Demobilization Unit	
Oversees the coordinated wind-down and cessation of incident activities and demobilization of incident resources.	
Technical Specialist / Intelligence Unit	
These personnel have special skills and are activated only when needed. Specialists may serve anywhere within the organization, including the Command Staff.	
Recovery Unit	
. During the initial response phase of an incident, the Recovery Unit analyzes information regarding the potential recovery and mitigation consequences of the situation. Damage assessment will typically be a primary focus of the Branch during this phase. When the incident transitions from the response phase to the recovery phase, the Recovery Unit will play a leading role in coordinating EOC operations.	
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION SECTION	
Finance and Administration Section Chief	
Coordinates financial accounting and documentation of disaster-related expenditures and supports financial decision-making as it related to the incident.	
Lead Agency: St. Lucie County Office of Management and Budget	
Support Agencies:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ St. Lucie County Human Resources ▪ St. Lucie County Clerk of Courts ▪ St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division 	
Lead State Agency	Lead Federal Agency
Florida Division of Emergency Management	Federal Emergency Management Agency
Cost Unit	
Establish/implement an accounting system and special cost codes associated with an emergency. Monitor all emergency expenditures. Ensure all sections and units are documenting cost-related information. Collect and compile cost information at the end of each shift.	
Personnel Unit	
Has the responsibility for personnel administration, human resources and employee welfare issues for St. Lucie County employees during the emergency.	

5. PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES

St. Lucie County's Emergency Management program ensures that an adequate level of preparedness is maintained at the county level and amongst municipal and non-governmental partners to effectively initiate and sustain emergency response operations. This section outlines the undertakings of St. Lucie County, under the direction of St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division, to implement and maintain a robust preparedness program that encompasses all partners.

5.1. PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR PLAN MAINTENANCE

The St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division, Emergency Management Planner is the position responsible for the development and maintenance of the St. Lucie County CEMP and its associated plans, Coordinating Procedures, annexes, and appendices on an annual basis.

5.2. PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESERVATION OF VITAL RECORDS

The St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division, Emergency Management Planner will be the position that acts as the designated Continuity of Operations (COOP) Manager. St. Lucie County's Continuity of Government Plan (COG) states that each department under the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is responsible for ensuring the preservation of vital records within their department pre- and post-disaster. Each department must determine which records need to be preserved and must develop procedures that safeguard those records. The Emergency Management Planner designated as the COOP Manager will ultimately follow up with all the departments to ensure vital records are being preserved. The Emergency Management Planner serving as COOP Manager will gather each department's plan during each annual update of the Continuity of Government (COG) plan and provide technical support when asked.

The COOP plan covers the BOCC, not the Constitutional Offices. Constitutional Officers devise their own record preservation plans in concert with their operating policies and procedures. The Emergency Management Planner serving as the COOP Manager does not oversee COOP planning under Constitutional offices unless technical assistance is specifically requested.

5.3. PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY

St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division personnel bear primary responsibility for the maintenance of the Special Needs Registry. As registration records are input and/or updated, Florida Department of Health – St. Lucie County (DOH) reviews and triages patients accordingly in order to determine the necessary level of care for each individual on the registry.

5.4. PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Effective disaster preparedness requires continual public awareness and education programs providing citizens the informational resources needed to take appropriate action. While the government plays a key role in emergencies, the presence of the CEMP does not alter the responsibility of businesses and citizenry to enact measures to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

St. Lucie County engages in active public outreach to ensure public awareness and knowledge of disaster readiness measures and considerations for any individual, household, or business. The county provides the public with informational resources including:

- **Information Dissemination Platforms:** The specific systems utilized as methods of public information dissemination are listed under Section 4.3.3 Warning and Dissemination. Through public outreach, residents are strongly encouraged to register themselves, households, and/or businesses for ALERT St. Lucie to receive emergency notifications. As well, residents are urged to follow St. Lucie County social media and website for a repository of disaster-related information and regular situational updates during emergencies.
- **Hurricane Evacuation Zone Maps:** Evacuation zone maps are readily available to the public through St. Lucie County's disaster preparedness literature in print version and online through St. Lucie County's webpage.

An outreach log is maintained by Emergency Management – the log details each public outreach event conducted, and the number of audiences reached at the event.

5.5. TRAINING AND EXERCISE

The following section outlines training and exercise programs which ensure emergency responders and the public fully understand the overall concept of Emergency Management and their responsibilities before, during, and after an emergency/disaster.

5.5.1. Exercises

The following section outlines training and exercise programs which ensure emergency responders and the public fully understand the overall concept of Emergency Management and their responsibilities before, during, and after an emergency/disaster.

St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division is compliant with the requirements of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) which is a capabilities and performance-based exercise program which provides a standardized policy, methodology, and terminology for exercise design, development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning. HSEEP compliance is defined as adherence to specific processes and practices for exercise program management and exercise design, development, conduct, evaluation, and

improvement planning. St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division complies with the four HSEEP performance requirements. These requirements are as follows:

1. Conduct an annual Training and Exercise Planning Workshop and maintain a Multi-year Training and Exercise Plan.
2. Plan and conduct exercises in accordance with the guidelines set forth in HSEEP policy.
3. Develop and submit properly formatted After Action Report/Improvement Plans (AAR/IP).
4. Track and implement corrective actions identified in the AAR/IP.

Types of exercises engaged in are defined below:

- Tabletop exercises are designed to detect potential problems with coordination, to determine the appropriateness and effectiveness of assigned responsibilities, and to achieve a certain level of familiarity with a plan.
- Functional exercises are more complex and are designed to test individual functions, such as direction and control, multiple functions, decision making, warning, public information, or recovery.
- Full-scale exercises are the highest level of exercise. It is the culmination of the exercise program. It is 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.

5.5.1.1. Participating Agencies

Emergency Management exercises are designed to include all lead and support agencies/organizations within each functional role involved in the implementation of the CEMP. All entities listed in under Section 4.3.11 Command, Lead and Support Agencies are participating agencies/organizations in St. Lucie County HSEEP compliant exercises.

5.5.1.2. Provisions for Inter-Agency Exercises

The exercises conducted may vary in format and location, and can include tabletop, functional, and field exercises. In addition to activities that entail participation from all partnering agencies/organizations, St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division will endeavor to conduct exercises pertaining to specific functional areas (e.g., shelter activation, EOC call center, amateur radio operations, or Community Emergency Response Team exercises). The exercise program is designed to address all aspects of the county's comprehensive emergency management program – mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery plans.

5.5.1.3. Schedule of Exercises

The schedule of exercises is depicted in the St. Lucie County Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP). The IPP establishes overall exercise program priorities and outlines a multi-year schedule of training and exercise activities designed to address the County's priorities and validate core capabilities.

5.5.1.4. Evaluation Process

After each exercise is conducted, constructive evaluations will be conducted using Exercise Evaluator Guides (EEGs) to develop After Action Reports (AARs) and Improvement Plans (IPs) in an effort to test the county's responsiveness and capabilities and test components of the CEMP and supporting annexes. Any deficiencies or best practices developed from these exercises will be incorporated into the CEMP and supporting plans to ensure optimal preparedness.

5.5.2. Training

The Emergency Management Division Manager and/or designee is responsible for coordinating St. Lucie County's Emergency Management training program. The training program and all associated work is implemented by an assigned Emergency Management staff. St. Lucie 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.

The training program shall have three dimensions:

1. Programs and courses available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the State, and other governmental/volunteer agencies.
2. Local departmental emergency response training for specific functional roles within the EOC organizational structure.
3. Community based awareness, disaster workshops, self-help, and public awareness training for the general public.

5.5.2.1. Personnel Responsible for Coordinating Local Training

St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division is responsible for development, implementation and coordination of training program specifically related to the implementation of the CEMP and its supporting hazard-specific plans and other implementation procedures.

5.5.2.2. Levels of Local Training

St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division will make training opportunities available to all agencies and officials involved in the implementation of the CEMP. The lead and support

agencies/organizations within each functional role are responsible for attending training offered by the county pertaining to their roles.

Lead and support agencies fulfilling functional roles whom the county will make training opportunities available to also include county agencies and officials, municipal agencies and officials, community organizations, and private sector partners.

5.5.2.3. Emergency Management Training Program

St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division will make training opportunities available to all agencies and officials involved in the implementation of the CEMP. The lead and support agencies/organizations within each functional role are responsible for attending training offered by the county pertaining to their roles.

1. Mitigation | Preparedness

- Agency heads will assign a designee within their organization.
- Agency heads and designees will participate in Emergency Management training to better prepare their organization for responding to emergencies/disasters.
- Agencies will identify needed emergency management training and request it from St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division.
- All agencies are encouraged to budget for training and exercises.

2. Response

- FEMA's Emergency Management Institute and the Florida Division of Emergency Management provide a variety of training opportunities for emergency management personnel and related partners as well as, local appointed officials and their staff.
- The objectives of emergency management training are to develop team skills for the St. Lucie 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 face of emergencies or disasters.
- Personnel training is provided for the St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division regularly.
- Internal training consists of the concepts of EOC operations and key components of the St. Lucie County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Departments/agencies will be trained in their assigned disaster role and provided an overview of the associated Coordinating Procedures and any other relevant plans or documents as necessary.
 - *Technical training on WebEOC, or any other systems utilized for the respective position will also be administered.*

- Internal training should be done on-site and in groups.
- Community awareness programs are provided to train citizens as to what actions are expected of them before, during, and after an emergency/disaster.
- Preparing citizens for protective action and self-help practices immediately following a disaster is part of the emergency management training program.
- The emergency management training program encourages members of all groups to take advantage of available training.

3. Recovery

- Recovery exercises complete the process of exercising the St. Lucie County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Recovery exercises are designed to fit the format from tabletop to full-scale exercises.
- Individual and departmental evaluations of exercise performance are used to determine internal training requirements.
- Group and individual training at the Emergency Management Institute should be scheduled routinely. These courses cover natural and technological hazards, as well as event-specific courses.

6. MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

Mutual aid requests for St. Lucie County are coordinated through St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division as referenced in the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement. St. Lucie County, the City of Fort Pierce, City of Port St. Lucie, and the Town of St. Lucie Village are signatories to the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement. The Public Safety Director or designee has responsibility for overseeing the mutual aid process in a disaster and coordinating the financial aspects with the Office of Management and Budget Director. Conversely, any request from outside St. Lucie County will be coordinated through Emergency Management as referenced in the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement.

St. Lucie County has responded to Mutual Aid requests from other counties including EMS units, fire apparatus, law enforcement assets and personnel, and 911 dispatchers. The documentation used to bill the receiving County includes time sheets, travel logs, receipts and completed ICS Forms. This is the minimum documentation required by St. Lucie County.

St. Lucie County will request mutual aid from outside jurisdictions under the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement via the State EOC or State Watch Office, as indicated. The County may also be requested to provide mutual aid to outside jurisdictions by the State EOC or State Watch Office, and the County will provide such aid if feasible to do so. In addition, the State of Florida is a signatory to the nationally based, Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), which is a mutual aid agreement between states to provide assistance if needed at the time of major disasters. Should St. Lucie County be severely impacted by a major event, the State of Florida may seek assistance from other states through this agreement. In turn, St. Lucie County may be requested to support.

7. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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

7.1. ASSUMPTIONS

1. Due to the nature of most emergency situations, financial 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 Major Disaster or emergency declaration authorizes federal disaster assistance through the Federal Disaster Relief Fund under the provisions of the Stafford Act. Additional financial resources are initiated at the local and state levels.

7.2. EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS

Timely financial support of any extensive response activity could 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.

In concert with state and 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. Each municipality is responsible for financial management of its own response and recovery operations.

Extreme care and attention to detail must be taken throughout the emergency response period to maintain daily activity logs, formal records, and file copies of all expenditures (including personnel time sheets, receipts, invoices, etc.) in order to provide clear and reasonable accountability and justification for future reimbursement requests. Reimbursement is NOT an automatic "given." Accordingly, deliberative prudence should be used as time and circumstances allow.

7.3. RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT DURING DISASTERS

The Finance/Admin Section's primary role is to document expenses incurred due to an event for potential cost recovery. Like other ICS elements, the Finance/Administration Section is only activated when needed.

7.3.1. Purpose

During a disaster, the Board of County Commissioners retains the authority to execute funding agreements with other legal entities. Each agency participating in the response will document their costs to the best of their ability and follow Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) cost recovery guidance. Once a federal disaster declaration is granted, each agency will follow FEMA's Public Assistance process to ensure costs for eligible activities are recovered.

The Finance/Admin Section supports the incident operation by maintaining accurate records for personnel and equipment costs incurred by St. Lucie County.

Finance/Admin Section duties:

- Maintain accurate cost information regarding the disaster.
- Maintain appropriate financial records to maximize reimbursement.
- Ensure appropriate County purchasing, financial, and accounting procedures are utilized.
- Manage contracts and procurement issues beyond the scope of the Logistics Section
- Keep payroll records as required.
- Document and process claims resulting from the response efforts.
- Provide best practices related to financial documentation and cost recovery to all EOC partner agencies.

The extent of the section's activities varies by disaster. In a major or catastrophic disaster, a Finance/Admin Section Chief is assigned to direct Section activities and determine the extent to which additional elements are mobilized.

7.4. RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING GUIDANCE AND TRAINING

Emergency Management Division, in conjunction with the Office of Management and Budget, will be responsible for providing guidance and training. Personnel involved in financial management will receive notification from Emergency Management and/or Office of Management and Budget for upcoming state or federal training opportunities (online or in-person), as well as state or federal disaster financial management resources and tool kits published.

7.5. DOCUMENTATION AND REIMBURSEMENT

Proper documentation is required to qualify for State and Federal Disaster Assistance and/or to receive reimbursement for eligible expenses. In major or catastrophic disasters, a separate project code (budget item) may be established to manage disaster related costs. These costs include labor, materials, equipment, supplies, and contracts. Fund numbers, department and/or division numbers, and activity codes normally used for related costs remain the same.

St. Lucie County Purchasing will coordinate and outline procurement processes in coordination with the Finance/Admin Chief and the Command Staff. Persons directing or supervising emergency work must document personnel labor, equipment, and supplies expended daily. Copies of these reports are sent to the Public Safety Department weekly during the period of the Local State of Emergency (LSE). Within ten (10) days of the end of the LSE, a total sheet for each department must be submitted to the Public Safety Department. Every reasonable effort is made to foster competition for work. Persons responsible for procurement and supply ordering can, and should, abide by County policy, soliciting proposals by phone or other means from more than one (1) vendor for emergency procurement and work with Procurement staff on proper process while ordering resources in the EOC.

St. Lucie County will apply for Federal Disaster Recovery Assistance. To receive federal reimbursement funds, Each County Department must document all labor, materials, supplies, and contractual costs by damage category and by site.

St. Lucie County's role as an assisting party under mutual aid, as well as the documentation required for billing the receiving party, is listed under Section 6, Mutual Aid Agreements.

7.6. DAY-TO-DAY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUNDING SOURCES

Funding sources for day-to-day emergency management activities and operations include the following:

- Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Trust Fund (EMPA)
- Hazard Analysis Update Grant (Hazmat)
- Homeland Security Grant Program (HSPG)
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)

Pre-disaster funding sources are available through the following:

- Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program (to include Shelter Retrofit)
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance

Post-disaster funding sources are available through FEMA:

- Public Assistance Program (PA)
- Individual Assistance Program (IA)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Fire Management Assistance Program

The local roles and responsibilities related to each of the above funding sources can be found in the state and/or federal guidance for the management of each funding source.

8. 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 citizens is set forth in the following regulations.

8.1. ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Section 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 relevant statutes are listed below.

- St. Lucie County shall perform emergency management functions within the territorial limits of St. Lucie County and conduct those activities pursuant to 252.31- 252.933, and in accordance with state and county emergency management plans and mutual aid agreements. St. Lucie County has the authority to establish, as necessary, a primary and one or more secondary emergency operating centers (EOCs) to provide continuity of government, direction, and control of emergency operations.
- St. Lucie 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 victims 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.
- St. Lucie County has the authority to request state assistance or invoke emergency related mutual aid assistance by declaring a Local State of Emergency (LSE). The duration of the LSE shall be limited to seven days, and it may be extended as necessary in seven-day increments.
- St. Lucie County participates in the statewide mutual aid agreements in existence. The County also has the power and authority to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of St. Lucie 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

- St. Lucie 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. Lucie County Emergency Management Division in accordance with Section 252.38(2), Florida Statutes.

St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division serves the entire county. It is the responsibility of St. Lucie County to establish and maintain an emergency management agency, develop a comprehensive emergency management plan, and develop a program that is consistent with the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and program.

St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division shall review emergency management plans required of external agencies and institutions.

Chapter 252, Florida Statutes provides that during a declared state or local emergency and upon the request of the director of a local emergency management agency, the district school board shall participate in emergency management by providing facilities and necessary personnel to staff such facilities.

8.2. ORDINANCES AND ADMINISTRATIVE CODES

The following ordinances and administrative rules apply to St. Lucie County Emergency Management activities.

8.2.1. St. Lucie County Plans, Guides, and Agreements

- St. Lucie County Coordinating Procedures for EOC Sections
- EOC Continuity of Operations Plan
- Continuity of Government Plan
- Debris Management Plan
- Disaster Housing Plan
- Recovery Plan
- Radiological Plan
- Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan
- St. Lucie County Shelter Plan
- St. Lucie County Special Needs Shelter Plan
- Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement

8.2.2. St. Lucie County Ordinances

- [Chapter 18](#), Emergency Management and Emergency Services, St. Lucie County Code of Ordinances
- [Chapter 10](#), Buildings and Building Regulations, St. Lucie County Code of Ordinances
- [Chapter 6](#), Animals, St. Lucie County Code of Ordinances

8.2.3. State of Florida Statutes

- [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 553](#), Building Construction Standards
- [Chapter 154](#), Public Health Facilities
- [Chapter 161](#), Beach and Shore Preservation; Part III, Coastal Zone Preservation
- [Chapter 163](#), Intergovernmental Programs; Part I, Miscellaneous Programs and Part II and III Community Development and Community Redevelopment
- [Chapter 187](#), State Comprehensive Plan
- [Chapter 215](#), Financial Matters
- [Chapter 216](#), Planning and Budget
- [Chapter 250](#), Military Matters
- [Chapter 252](#), Emergency Management
- [Chapter 284](#), State Risk Management and Safety Programs
- [Chapter 287](#), Procurement of Personal Property and Services
- [Chapter 321](#), Highway Patrol
- [Chapter 376](#), Pollutant Discharge
- [Chapter 377](#), Energy Resources
- [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. Disposition of Dead Bodies
- [Chapter 409](#), Title XXX, Social Welfare
- [Chapter 413](#), Blind Services Program
- [Chapter 633](#), Fire Prevention and Control
- [Chapter 427](#), Transportation Services
- [Chapter 581](#), Plant Industry
- [Chapter 590](#), Forest Protection
- [Chapter 768](#), Good Samaritan Act

- [Chapter 870](#), Affrays, Riots, Routs and unlawful assemblies
- [Chapter 943](#), Law Enforcement
- [Chapter 1013](#), Educational Facilities
- Administrative Rules State of Florida [9G-2](#), [6](#), [11](#), [12](#), [14](#), [16](#), [17](#), [19](#), [20](#) and [22](#)

8.2.4. Federal Laws

- [Public Law 93-288](#), as amended, which provides authority for response assistance under the Federal Response Plan, and which empowers the President to direct any Federal agency to utilize its authorities and resources in support of state and local assistance efforts (The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act)
- [Public Law 93-234](#), Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended, provides insurance coverage for all types of buildings
- [Public Law 81-920](#), 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
- [Public Law 99-499](#), Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, which governs hazardous materials planning and right-to-know
- [Public Law 101-615](#), Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act (HMTUSA), which provides funding to improve capability to respond to hazardous materials incidents
- [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
- [Public Law 101-549](#), Clean Air Amendments of 1990, which provides for reductions in pollutants
- [Public Law 85-256](#), Price-Anderson Act, which provides for a system of compensating the public for harm caused by a nuclear accident
- [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
- [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
- [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
- [Pets Evacuation & Transportation Standards Act of 2006](#) (PL 109-308)
- [Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11331-11352](#),
- [Federal Emergency Management Emergency Food and Shelter Program](#).
- [National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, 42 USC 4001 et seq.](#)
- [Homeland Security Presidential Directive-3: Homeland Security Advisory System](#)
- [Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5](#): Assigned Sec. of DHS as FCO, Attn General as lead for terrorist incidents through FBI; made NIMS adoption requirement for receiving federal preparedness grants
- [Presidential Policy Directive PPD-8](#): requires national preparedness goal, National

Preparedness System, annual national preparedness report, employ nationwide/whole community approach

- [Presidential Policy Directive-21](#), *Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience*
- [Presidential Decision Directive-39](#), United State Policy on Counter Terrorism
- [Presidential Decision Directive-62](#), United States Policy on Combating Terrorism
- [Presidential Decision Directive-63](#), United States Policy on Protecting America's Critical Infrastructures
- [Presidential Decision Directive-67](#), United States Policy on Enduring Constitutional Government and Continuity of Government
- [Executive Order 11988](#), Flood Plain Management
- [Executive Order 11990](#), Protection of Wetlands
- [Executive Order 12241](#), Transferring Review and Concurrence Responsibility for State Plans from the NRC to FEMA
- [Executive Order 12656](#), Assignment of Emergency Preparedness Responsibilities
- [Executive Order 12657](#), Federal Emergency Management Assistance in Emergency Planning at Commercial Nuclear Power Plants
- [CFR 44 Part 2](#), Super Circular
- [CFR 44 Parts 59-76](#), National Flood Insurance Program and related programs
- [CFR 44 Part 13](#) (The Common Rule), Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements
- [CFR 44 Part 206](#), Federal Disaster Assistance for Disasters Declared after November 23, 1988
- [CFR 44 Part 10](#), Environmental Conditions
- [CFR 44 Part 14](#), Audits of State and Local Governments

SECTION 2: RECOVERY ANNEX

1. INTRODUCTION

Following a disaster, many critical post-disaster concerns will need to be addressed such as assessing damage, restoring essential public services, providing emergency food, water, and shelter, cleaning up debris, identifying ways to address unmet needs, restoring essential services, and beginning the process of long-term recovery. Resolution of these issues will require a coordinated local, state, and federal effort.

The number of resources necessary to fully recover from an event will be dictated by the type, magnitude, and severity of the disaster. St. Lucie County can normally recover from minor disasters; however, widespread destruction may overwhelm St. Lucie County's resources and warrant assistance from the state and federal levels.

The Recovery Annex 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.

1.1. GENERAL

Following a major event, the EOC will serve as the coordination point for managing, coordinating, and directing response and recovery efforts which include establishing the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC), Damage Assessment Teams, staging areas, and other sites for coordinated assistance.

The recovery phase of an emergency or disaster deals with the functional restoration of a community to the conditions prior to the disaster event. Direction, control, and coordination during the immediate recovery phase focuses on the following types of activities:

- Establishment of an intra-county recovery network designed to provide the support for movement of response actions, relief supplies, and services into the County.
- The restoration of infrastructure including roads, traffic controls, signs, canals, railroads, airports, shipping facilities, fuel supplies, potable water supplies, electricity, sewage disposal, storm drains, and flood control facilities.
- Allocation and administration of the distribution of emergency supplies including food, water, ice, and medications.
- Managing post-event sheltering operations.
- Initiating preliminary damage assessment (airborne and ground).
- Conducting debris removal.
- The restoration of public safety measures including fire suppression, law enforcement, and search and rescue.
- The restoration of human services including the provision of health and medical services, environmental and public health concerns, and the provision of services to people.
- Establishment of Disaster Recovery Facilities to provide information to impacted citizens

on what assistance is available to them.

The primary local coordinating agency for requesting resources and relief supplies and support within the county is Emergency Management. This function will be performed from the EOC unless directed otherwise by the County Administrator and/or Public Safety Director or designee. This transfer will occur once there is sufficient evidence that sustainment of operation is achievable and immediate danger has passed allowing recovery efforts to be continued safely with the EOC structure.

The agencies/departments and organizations supporting recovery operations are the agencies found on the Stakeholder List on page 9 of this plan.

The agencies referenced above fall into a functional area within St. Lucie County's Emergency Operations Center Organizational Chart as listed under Section 4.3.11 of the Basic Plan. Their respective roles in the recovery process are consistent with the description of their duties summarized under their functional role table. A more detailed description of each agency/organization's recovery role can be found in the position-specific plans for each functional role.

St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division has primary responsibility for coordinating recovery efforts. Each Functional Area in the EOC will coordinate with their state counterparts during response and recovery operations. 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 EOC.

All recovery activities are coordinated through the Public Safety Director or designee. The county will coordinate and monitor recovery activities with the municipalities and the state through the following methods:

- Situation reports.
- Mission assignments logged and tracked through WebEOC.
- Municipal status update reports received from local governments.
- EOC briefings.
- Conference calls with municipalities and the SERT.
- Damage assessment data and other impact information received from other sources.

These information sources are reviewed and monitored to determine the 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, which takes place after the event.

If St. Lucie County receives an Individual Assistance Declaration, the Emergency Management Division along with selected County departments are responsible for the overall coordination and establishment of a Disaster Recovery Center for the affected area. The Public Safety Director or designee will appoint the Emergency Management staff member charged with coordinating Human Services activities as the County Recovery Center Coordinator to

coordinate with State and Federal individual assistance officers in the establishment of the Recovery Center.

The Public Information Officer (PIO) is responsible for providing public information and education programs regarding the recovery effort and mitigation opportunities and available local, state, and federal assistance.

Public information programs will use all the resources outlined above in reaching the population in St. Lucie County. Special efforts will be made to reach the hearing/sight impaired, non-English-speaking individuals, and those without access to traditional communications outlets.

Administration of Disaster Assistance

The County utilizes the process established under the Stafford Act for obtaining and administering state and federal disaster assistance when the President issues a disaster declaration that includes St. Lucie County; the County will receive notification from the State Coordinating Officer. The Public Safety Director or designee will ensure that this information is transmitted to the Office of Management and Budget Director for coordination of financial reimbursement with County agencies while maintaining compliance procedures for financial transactions, accurate accounting, grants management, document tracking, and payroll procedures. Each County agency is responsible for the collection and documentation of reimbursement information, identification of public assistance projects, and submission to the Finance and Administration Section for countywide consolidation and submission to FEMA. It is the responsibility of the Finance and Administration Section to acquire additional staffing to implement the public assistance program.

The Public Safety Director or designee will transmit disaster declaration, recovery assistance information, and technical assistance resources to the municipalities, special taxing districts, and not-for-profit organizations, which perform essential governmental services as described in FEMA regulations. These notifications will occur via conference calls, e-mail, county emergency web pages, media outlets, and other communications mechanisms.

Each municipality is responsible for identifying public assistance projects. The Public Safety Director or designee will coordinate with the State regarding implementing the appropriate programs authorized by the declaration.

Recovery Activities During for Undeclared Disasters

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. However, not every recovery element will be activated for each event. Only the necessary recovery operations will be undertaken depending on the magnitude and needs of the event. In the absence of a federal declaration, financial assistance is limited, and heavy reliance is placed on voluntary, nonprofit organizations, charitable agencies, faith-based organizations, donations, and insurance coverage. The County and municipal governments must meet infrastructure recovery

needs through existing operating funds, insurance, or resort to bond issues to fund disaster recovery.

2.RECOVERY FUNCTIONS

2.1. DAMAGE ASSESSMENT CONTINUUM FUNCTIONS

The Damage Assessment Continuum process is one of the most critical elements of the recovery phase. 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 a request for a gubernatorial proclamation and for the State to request a Presidential Declaration.

The damage assessment continuum process services multiple purposes when responding to disasters:

- How we identify the location and extent of damage caused by a disaster.
- Prioritize resource distribution for disaster victims.
- Prioritize infrastructure restoration.
- Gather supporting information to secure State or Federal assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

Damage Assessments are conducted in the following phases:

- Rapid Impact Assessment (RIA)
- Comprehensive Initial Damage Assessment (IDA)
- Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)

St. Lucie County’s capability to conduct its own assessment may be limited due to the extensive damage associated with a catastrophic event. In that event, the county will notify the State Emergency Operations Center and request assistance.

2.1.1. General

Recovery response to an emergency will be based upon the assessment of lives impacted, public and private property losses, the reports of actions taken to alleviate the situation, and the expenditures committed to that effort. 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 practicable after the emergency occurrence. Initial assessments indicate the 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.

The method of addressing the county's short- and long-term recovery priorities post- disaster will be dependent on the impacts and will prioritize restoring critical community lifelines.

2.1.2. Rapid Impact Assessment (RIA)

Rapid Impact Assessment (RIA) is a systematic approach designed to determine the nature and extent of life safety and damage to critical facilities within the first few hours of a catastrophic event, or as soon as responders and field personnel can enter the area. Its purpose is to rapidly prioritize primary or first responder personnel to respond to issues which are critical in nature, such as life safety and rescue. Additionally, the RIA allows for easy reporting to the EOC on critical infrastructure needs, and large-scale damage, allowing the EOC to acquire necessary resources to meet the disaster needs.

2.1.3. Initial Damage Assessment (IDA)

Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) is the ongoing evaluation of buildings and infrastructure to determine the extent of damage sustained within the county. The process allows for quick decision making when determining the ability to use and occupy major critical facilities, (e.g., hospitals, fire stations, etc.). It also provides a means for assessing an estimated monetary figure of sustained damages, which enables the county to potentially capture state and federal support and funding for the loss or inability to occupy the facility. Some Damage Assessment will occur during the Rapid Impact Assessment phase, but the IDA requires a greater level of detail.

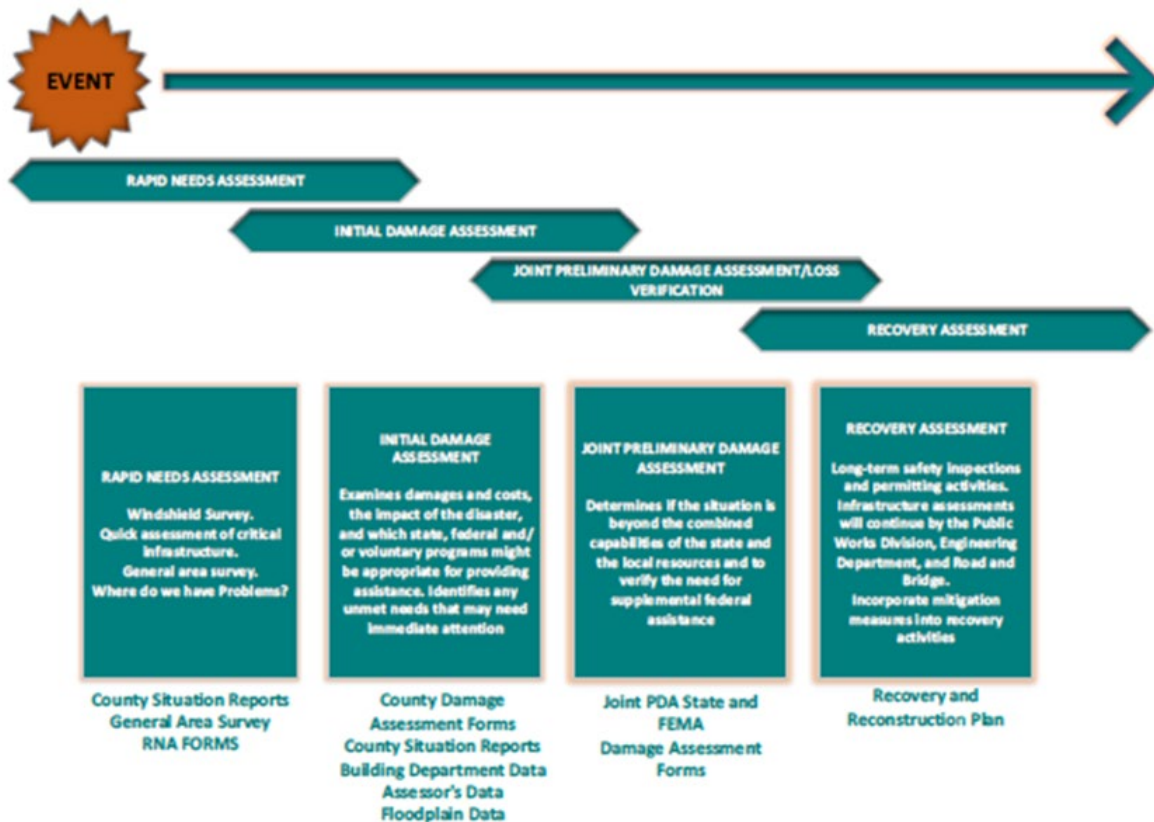
2.1.4. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)

Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) - is a joint assessment used to determine the magnitude and impact of an event's damage. A FEMA/State team will usually visit local applicants and view their damage first-hand to assess the scope of damage and estimate repair costs. The state uses the results of the PDA to determine if the situation is beyond the combined capabilities of the state and local resources and to verify the need for supplemental federal assistance. The PDA also identifies any unmet needs that may require immediate attention. This assessment is only done when the county believes that specific federal thresholds for assistance have been met.

2.1.5. Recovery Assessment

Recovery Assessment – is the assessment used to determine short- and long-term recovery needs within St. Lucie County, and to outline the priorities for restoration. Within the first few months of the incident, St. Lucie County will need to conduct an Unmet Needs Assessment to determine both public and private recovery needs. This assessment provides the details required to determine if specific recovery programs may be able to assist individuals, businesses, and public partners.

Because each of above phases or elements overlap to some extent, the damage assessment process has been labeled the “Damage Assessment Continuum.” Each element of the Damage Assessment Continuum has different components, time frames and reporting forms. The various components, when assembled, produce the “damage assessment” picture.



2.1.5.1. Individual and Public Assistance Considerations for PDAs

An individual disaster assistance program (IA) is provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to individuals, families, and businesses whose property has been damaged or destroyed and whose losses are not covered by insurance. The program is designed to assist private entities with critical expenses that cannot be covered in any other way. In most cases, this kind of assistance is insufficient to restore damaged property to the condition it was in before the disaster. The PDA that supports an IA Presidential Declaration is based on a windshield survey conducted by FEMA, state, and local staff that counts the number of destroyed and inhabitable homes in the disaster impacted area.

The focus for Individual Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessments is **HABITABILITY**, meaning whether the survivor can safely continue to live in the structure. Damages to homes and businesses are broken down into five categories for an IA PDA: destroyed, major, minor, inaccessible, and affected.

The Small Business Administration provides disaster loans to uninsured businesses. The number of businesses significantly impacted is used to determine SBA eligibility. ESF #18 has a Business Recovery Unit that facilitates and coordinates SBA disaster assistance when the EOC is activated. For events not involving an EOC activation, EMD will coordinate with the designated municipal emergency coordinator in the impacted jurisdiction. ESF #18 representatives from both the County and City will also be included.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program provides assistance to State, Tribal and Local Governments, and certain types of Nonprofit Organizations to help them respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President as quickly as possible. PA Presidential Declarations are based on estimated damages, protective measures, and debris removal expenses in disaster-affected counties. Based on a per-capita rate applied to county population, FEMA establishes a minimum disaster impact threshold for each county. Additionally, a state threshold must be met for consideration of a Presidential Declaration.

As part of the PA Program, FEMA may provide supplemental Federal disaster grant assistance to remove debris, protect public facilities, and repair, replace, or restore facilities that have been damaged by disasters as well as those of certain non-profit organizations (PNPs). In addition, the PA Program helps with integrating hazard mitigation measures into the repair, rebuilding and recovery process of these damaged facilities.

Damage assessment teams should make the following determinations for damages related to Individual Assistance and Public Assistance:

Private Residences and Businesses (Individual Assistance)

- **Primary Versus Secondary Residences:** Secondary homes are not eligible for disaster assistance.
- **Homeowners:** Homeowners may be eligible for assistance for losses to property.
- **Extent Of Damage:** Minimal damage, major damage (structural damage to foundations, walls, roofs, etc.), and destroyed in accordance with the Damage Assessment Guide.
- **Insured Versus Uninsured Damage:** Insured damages and losses are not eligible for disaster assistance.
- **Tenants:** Renters may be eligible for assistance to cover content losses only.
- **Estimated Days Out of Operation:** This information is needed to estimate the total dollar loss to a business.
- **Number of Employees:** Used to estimate the amount of disaster unemployment for a business.
- **Replacement Costs:** Replacement costs of land, structures, and content are eligible for disaster assistance.

Public Facilities and Services (Public Assistance)

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

Planning Assumptions

- Assessing the damage is one of the first steps in understanding the extent and magnitude of the situation at hand.
- Formal and informal processes will be used to conduct the initial damage assessments.
- Information will be received from multiple agencies on conditions observed and must be captured in consolidated damage assessment reports.
- All agencies have the responsibility to report observed conditions to the Emergency Operations Center

2.1.6. Damage Assessment Roles and Responsibilities

The Damage Assessment Unit and the GIS Unit, in coordination with the St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division, will facilitate Damage Assessments with County Departments, the St. Lucie County Property Appraiser's Office, Constitutional offices, the Cities of Port St. Lucie and Fort Pierce, and St. Lucie Village, to determine damages across the entire county.

To provide state and federal agencies with accurate disaster event damage assessments, it is paramount that each of the municipalities, constitutional offices, and taxing districts report damage assessment results with the EOC. Each agency will compile data and submit it to the Damage Assessment Unit. The Damage Assessment Unit will coordinate with County and municipal Building/Code Compliance departments to assess structures for habitability.

Specific roles and responsibilities of all agencies supporting damage assessments are as follows:

Department/Agency	Damage Assessment Role
<p>Property Appraiser's Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts as the lead in conducting damage assessment of private property. • Ensures Property Appraiser's Office (PAO) Damage Assessment Teams are properly trained and equipped. • Coordinates with the Emergency Management Division in developing damage assessment standard operating guidelines and checklists. • In coordination with the Damage Assessment Unit, assigns PAO damage assessment teams to impacted areas. • Coordinates with Damage Assessment and GIS Units in compiling information received from private property owners. • Submits results to Damage Assessment Unit
<p>Parks and Facilities Departments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffs EOC position ESF 5 Planning Damage Assessment Unit Leader. • Performs Safety Inspections to all County Owned facilities in preparation for damage assessments. • Acts as the lead for conducting damage assessments for public property and infrastructure. • Assess damage to county parks and county-owned buildings and properties. • Submits results to Damage Assessment Unit
<p>Building Division</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the Facilities Department in conducting damage assessments for public property and infrastructure. • Supports the Property Appraiser in assessing damaged residential structures. • Submits results to Damage Assessment Unit
<p>Planning and Development Services Department (GIS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate and manage ArcGIS Quick Capture mobile application – the tool utilized for capturing damage assessment data. • Prepare mobile devices for field damage assessment teams. • Maps all damage assessment data. • Develop data visualization applications as requested. • Submits results to Damage Assessment Unit

<p>St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides damage assessment training as described in the Basic Plan. • Collects and consolidates initial damage assessment reports from all agencies. • Transmits damage assessment information to the state EOC. • Requests assistance if damage assessment is beyond County capabilities. • Coordinates with state, federal, and other damage assessment teams. • Contacts Damage Assessment Team Leaders to report to Staging Area for deployment. • Submits results to Damage Assessment Unit
<p>Public Works Department</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess damage to traffic control systems. • Assess damage to culvert and drainage infrastructure. • Assess damage to bridges, paved and dirt roads, shoulders, and right of ways. • Submits results to Damage Assessment Unit
<p>Public Utilities Department</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess damage to water and wastewater system control facilities. • Assess damage to Solid Waste and Recycling Facilities. • Submits results to Damage Assessment Unit
<p>Port, Inlet, & Beaches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess damage to beach, dune, and dune walkovers. • Assess damage to seaport and jetty. • Submits results to Damage Assessment Unit
<p>Airport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducts Safety Inspection for all airport facilities and infrastructure. • Coordinates with Facilities and Building Departments as needed. • Submits results to Damage Assessment Unit
<p>Transit Department</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess damage to transit facilities. • Submits results to Damage Assessment Unit
<p>Environmental Resources Division</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess damage to ERD facilities. • Submits results to Damage Assessment Unit
<p>St. Lucie County School Board</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess damage to all School Board facilities. • Submits results to Damage Assessment Unit for reporting purposes
<p>St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides Point of Contact to Damage Assessment Unit • Conducts Safety Inspection • Assesses property with BOCC Damage Assessment Team • Submits results to Damage Assessment Unit for reporting purposes

Municipal Support Organizations:

Municipalities are responsible for the preliminary damage assessment within their jurisdiction and submitting results to the Damage Assessment Unit. Municipal agencies act in the following capacities for damage assessments:

- **Municipal Public Works:** Assists in evaluating damage to water and wastewater system control facilities; flood control facilities; utilities and traffic control systems; roads and bridges.
- **Water Resources:** Assist in evaluating damage to water and wastewater system control facilities.
- **Facilities Management:** Assist in evaluating damage to municipal facilities.

2.2. DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS (DRCS)

DRCs are temporary locations where impacted citizens can go to apply for local, State, and Federal assistance programs for which they may be eligible. A DRC will be established in the immediate area to provide immediate “one-stop shopping” for information and registration for supplemental assistance for supplemental recovery. The Emergency Management Division and other St. Lucie County departments will work closely with the appropriate agencies/organizations ensure the DRC is supplied with all necessary resources and personnel, and to ensure the selected facilities or locations are capable of supporting DRC operations for extended periods of time. The Public Safety Director or designee will request the establishment of the DRC through the state when Individual Assistance is declared available for the county.

The Public Safety Director or designee will designate an Emergency Management Division staff to serve as the DRC Coordinator. This DRC Coordinator will be responsible for the general management of the DRC. Additionally, another Emergency Management Division staff will be responsible for the following:

- Notifying the State of the need to establish DRCs and request assistance via WebEOC mission.
- Providing the state and federal agencies with a list of locations identified in the pre- event planning stage that have been inspected by preliminary damage assessment teams and found safe and compliant with state and federal regulations.
- Ensuring that Memoranda of Understanding is completed for each non-County facility selected for use as a DRC.
- Working closely with all involved agencies/organizations to ensure that each DRC has the necessary utilities, supplies, materials, and security to conduct operations.
- Coordinating the locations of the DRC sites with the PIO in order to coordinate press releases to all available media sources indicating the DRC location(s).
- Coordinating with the State team, PIO, and other supporting groups and units regarding the opening and closure of DRCs.

Once DRC sites and locations have been confirmed, county, state, and federal PIOs will prepare a coordinated press release to advise persons affected by the disaster of the location(s) of DRCs; assistance available through the DRCs; and any documentation they may require supporting their claims for assistance.

DRCs 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. Additional agencies and staff may be located at the Disaster Recovery Center as required.

Local agencies involved in providing assistance to the DRCs include:

- St. Lucie County Public Safety Department
- St. Lucie County Information Technology Department
- St. Lucie County Facilities Department

- St. Lucie County Office of Management and Budget
- St. Lucie County Clerk of Court
- St. Lucie County Economic Development
- St. Lucie County Communications Division
- St. Lucie County Agriculture Extension/IFAS
- St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office
- St. Lucie Community Services

The Public Safety Director or designee will request/coordinate the DRC location with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This will be accomplished by initiating a formal request through WebEOC, preceded by ongoing communication and coordination between the agencies.

Local resources within the County that may be utilized as informational/referral services in support of the DRC Operations include all aforementioned agencies involved in providing assistance to the DRC, as well as:

- Municipalities and any applicable agencies/organizations with jurisdiction in the impacted area.
- Agencies/organizations who regularly partner with the agencies/organizations involved in providing assistance to the DRC.

A comprehensive list of viable facilities for use as a DRC under any given geographic spread of impact is maintained by a designated Emergency Management staff member and overseen by the Emergency Management Division Manager. Details on this list can be obtained through St. Lucie County Emergency Management Division.

2.3. INFRASTRUCTURE | PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The St. Lucie County Public Safety Director is the designated county Public Assistance Lead (PAL) 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. The PAL is responsible for:

- Providing federal and state financial oversight related to debris activities.
- Executing the funding agreements with other legal entities on behalf of the county.
- Administering all public assistance grants, agreements, and contracts.
- Identification and Notification Procedures for Applicants

Emergency Management Division maintains a list of potential applicants that may be eligible for assistance under the Public Assistance Program. This list is updated by Emergency Management prior to hurricane season. All applicants who believe they may be eligible will be asked to prepare a Request for Public Assistance through FloridaPA.org.

Examples of potential applicants for PA include:

- St. Lucie County Government agencies (BOCC and Constitutional)
- Municipal Government Agencies
- St. Lucie County Public Schools
- St. Lucie County Fire District
- Others involved not-for-profit organizations involved in response and recovery.

Each municipality, special district, or non-profit will be required to submit a separate application with FEMA and file their own Request for Public Assistance. The Public Safety Director or designee, in coordination with the Emergency Management Division Manager, will work closely to notify all eligible governments and private not-for-profit organizations of the availability of federal public assistance funds.

Potential eligible applicants will be notified of the date, time, and location of the scheduled applicant's briefing. Notification may occur through email correspondence and telephone contacts. The state has the responsibility to conduct the applicant's briefing. The County will follow the procedures outlined in the Florida Division of Emergency Management's Handbook for Disaster Assistance.

Parties that will participate in the initial briefing as representatives for the county include Public Safety Director and/or Assistant Director, Emergency Management Division Manager, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director, OMB Budget Manager and/or Senior Management Analyst(s).

2.3.1. Applicant's Briefing and Request for Public Assistance Application

As soon as possible following the President's declaration, the State conducts briefings for all potential Applicants. The State is responsible for notifying potential Applicants of the date, time, and location of the Applicant Briefing. FEMA attends the Applicant Briefing to support the State. At the Applicant's Briefing, all parties are informed of the eligibility requirements, application procedures, administrative requirements, funding, and program eligibility criteria to receive federal and state assistance.

Once the State of Florida and/or FEMA determines that an applicant is eligible to receive public assistance funding, The Request for Public Assistance (RPA67) application must be submitted by the county to FEMA through the State. The State must review and approve each RPA and provide its assessment of the Applicant's risk of noncompliance as required by 2 C.F.R. § 200.331(b). Using the RPA, the Applicant provides general information about its organization, including physical location and point of contact. Given the necessity to collaborate with each Applicant early in the PA Program implementation process, FEMA's expectation is that the State collect RPAs as soon as possible after the respective area is designated in the declaration.

2.3.2. Public Assistance Program Assistance and Management

The County Public Assistance Unit, established by the PAL, will be flexible and capable of expanding and contracting as required by the event. Typical staff of the Public Assistance Officer and its related duties are:

Position	Responsibilities
Public Assistance Officer	Responsible for the overall management of the Public Assistance Office and coordination of all activities related to federal reimbursement of eligible applicants
Assistant PA Officer	Assists the Public Assistance Officer in the management of the office and coordinating reimbursement to eligible applicants
PA Coordinator	Coordinates the scheduling of damage survey inspection teams and assists in the formulation, writing, versioning, and closeout of completed Project Worksheets (PWs)
PA Inspector	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
Insurance Coordinator	Provides technical assistance to eligible applicants on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and other insurance requirements and reviews completed PWs for compliance with insurance requirements
Grant Specialist/Manager	Ensures the RPA and funding agreement are in place to process payments and compiles documentation to support Requests for Reimbursement
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 emergency orders and Local Declaration of Emergency, public assistance policies and procedures for compliance with applicable local, state and federal requirements and regulations, including the review of any procurement requirements for all federally administered grant funds received by the county
Employment of Temporary Staff	<p>In the event of a catastrophic disaster, the existing staff of the County and municipal government(s) may be insufficient to staff the Public Assistance Unit. The PAL will contact the following sources for additional temporary staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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

The Public Assistance Program will be supported through the county's agencies/departments and their roles are identified below:

Department/Agency	Damage Assessment Role
Emergency Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee project and grant management responsibilities for all federal disaster open grants and projects. • Facilitates notifications and planning for applicant briefings and kickoff meetings. • Ensures that all county departments provide input for federal grant reporting requirements. • Provide documentation of resource requests and costs based on activation of mutual aid agreements, SMAA, EMAC, etc.
Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide documentation to support disaster costs including, but not limited to the following: • Force account labor costs, employee pay classification information, fringe benefit breakdown for employees, payroll reports. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Pay statements, regular and emergency payroll policies; timesheets reflecting straight and overtime that delineate what work employee was performing and what project(s) the work is attributed to • Provides information relating to insurance policies on insured facilities, summaries of loss, approval/claim denial letters from insurer, insurance commitment requirements by FEMA, insurance commissioner determinations and other related risk management issues
Building Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all work is completed in accordance with local and state building codes and ordinances. • Provide determination of environmentally sensitive and/or historical areas • Address post-disaster mitigation assessment needs for buildings and infrastructure. • Provide assistance with building inspections for emergency and permanent work.
Property Appraiser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating damage assessment information received from public and non-profit agencies. • Obtaining property assessment information for damaged/destroyed structures. • Providing damage assessment values for private and public property • Research, analyze, and survey disaster damage impacts on property values. • Maintain updated property valuation records. • Coordinate with the Public Assistance Coordinator regarding damages to the Property Appraiser's offices and equipment requiring repair from the disaster

<p>Finance Department</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide tracking of all disaster related costs by department, project and disaster and provide financial reconciliation of all expenditures and payments received. • Provide contracting/procurement supporting documentation and ensure that all emergency, standby, and existing contracts meet state and federal requirements. • Provide expenditure documentation to support reimbursement including receipts, invoices, bank statements, EFTs/JTs, inter-departmental transfers, P-card statements, purchase orders, etc. • Provide tracking of donated resources that can be used as in-kind resources towards non-federal local share match. • Provide financial policies and procedures addressing purchasing practices. • Provide coordination and management through the Accounting Division for Project Worksheets (PW) and the Public Assistance (PA) Process • Coordinate with Public Assistance Coordinator (PAC) and project specific project manager (PM) to ensure accurate PWs are created for all damages. • Maintain a system of project documentation, both physical and electronic, that tracks all work and information regarding each PW. • Provide all required reports to the State and FEMA regarding the progress and problems for each PW. • Coordinate with each PW PM to ensure all parties are informed on progress, problems and communications regarding the PW. • Maintain documentation on all PWs for at least 5 years after Disaster Close-Out or as required by State and FEMA • Supporting analysis of the financial impact of the recovery process on County revenues; Advising the County Administrator and County Disaster Recovery Director accordingly • Assisting with economic analyses of the impact of the incident on the County
<p>Public Works and Engineering Department</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists in evaluating damage to utilities and traffic control systems, roads and bridges, and flood control facilities. • Assists in evaluating damage to water and wastewater system control facilities. • Assists in evaluating damage to County facilities and transportation resources. • Tracks force account materials and equipment used for disaster response and recovery efforts. • Provides technical support and resources to County agencies conducting facility and infrastructure repairs and reconstruction under the PA program. • Coordinates the implementation of the Countywide Debris

	<p>Management Plan with through the Debris Management Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides road work/maintenance records. • Provides applicant owned equipment/fleet inventory, applicant cost codes, equipment/maintenance records, and activity records indicating what equipment (by operator) was used for disaster. • Provides Public Infrastructure Records including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of roads throughout jurisdiction (county maintained, private, state & federal roads) • Records of service calls regarding road issues • Permitting records for work performed • Critical inventory list • Records of past damage • Rental/lease agreements • Provide and assist with engineering studies (hydrology & hydraulics, surveys, assessments, etc. for emergency and permanent repair work • Ensure that all permits are acquired and documented prior to work commencement
Clerk of Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Finance Department to coordinate the disbursement and drawdown of disaster grant funds. • Coordinate with the Public Assistance Coordinator regarding. • damages to courthouses and equipment requiring repair from the disaster

2.3.3. Insurance Coordination Procedures

Most Public Assistance sub-grants will not be processed until insurance coordination with the appropriate carrier has been completed. It is the responsibility of the St. Lucie County Risk Manager to ensure early turn-around of insurance documents and documentation. Additionally, any insurance proceeds received on any sub-grants must be reported to avoid duplication of benefits.

2.3.4. Project Worksheet (PW) Management

PW information and preparation support is the responsibility of the sub-grantee, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, and FEMA. Each sub-grantee is responsible for overseeing all PW management activities including, but not limited to:

- PW development and formulation of projects
- Maintaining PW documentation
- Addressing scope of work changes or alternate/improved projects

- Ensuring work is completed within approved deadlines.
- Complying with all financial compliance reporting requirements and audits
- Working with State and FEMA to conduct site inspections.
- Appeals
- Closeout

2.4. DEBRIS MANAGEMENT

St. Lucie County Public Utilities Department 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 emergency access routes and major transportation arteries in an effort to allow the movement of emergency vehicles, supplies, resources, and traffic. After the restoration of the major transportation arteries has been completed, debris will then be removed from waste pickup sites, residential/local roadways, public buildings, critical facilities, and public parks.

A contract for debris management is included in the Debris Management Plan which includes, but is not limited to, debris management site identification, truck certifications, loading ticket verification, oversight of debris removal operations, and tower monitoring.

In an effort to minimize the impacts on landfill capacities, alternative 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, and an applicable permit will be acquired. Suitable burn sites will be pre-identified by St. Lucie County Public Utilities Department in coordination with St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department.

It is anticipated that significant numbers of personnel with engineering and construction skills, along with construction equipment and resources, 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 by the Public Safety Department, Office of Management and Budget, Public Utilities and Public Works.

The County Attorney will review entry procedures for debris removal from private roads, and, right-of-way debris removal from private property, which are addressed by Public Utilities and Public Works Departments.

The development and activation of debris removal and debris monitoring contracts and coordinating will be led by the Public Utilities Department and coordinated closely with Public Safety, Office of Management and Budget and Public Works.

See the St. Lucie County Debris Management Plan for further detail.

2.5. COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Federal and state community relations teams will work with county government to make sure that residents affected by a local disaster know they can get the government help they need to

recover from the disaster. The Public Safety Director and/or his designee will function as the county community relations coordinator and will serve as liaison with the FEMA/state team. The teams will work with ESF-5: Planning / Recovery Unit and ESF-7: Resource Management. The teams are trained to talk directly with the victims, displaced workers, and people with damage to their homes. The teams serve as a direct link between the community and relief agencies.

The coordinator is responsible for providing contacts, relationships and rosters of local government officials and appropriate community groups and organizations. Maps and demographic information will also be provided.

Community leaders and neighborhood advocacy groups will be identified to assist in the rapid dissemination of information and identifying unmet needs for disaster recovery. The hard-hit sections of the community will be given top priority. A current list of key community leaders, special populations and geographic areas to be contacted after an emergency is retained on file at the emergency is retained on file at the emergency management office.

2.6. UNMET NEEDS COORDINATION

Following a disaster or emergency event, unmet needs will be assessed to determine what assistance is needed for disaster survivors as they recover from the event. Unmet needs may include, but are not limited to:

- Basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter and first aid
- Long-term mental and behavioral health for those traumatized by the event.
- Transportation assistance
- Long-term housing
- Comprehensive case management
- Financial assistance for those impacted.

Unmet needs will be communicated through WebEOC as mission request. The Community Services Department, as the lead agency for ESF-15: Volunteers and Donations, is in charge of contacting community providers to coordinate the provision of resources. ESF-15 will also contact local municipalities' Community Services Departments to eliminate the possibility of the duplication of services and to identify the best resources available to meet the needs of disaster victims on a case-by-case basis. These volunteer efforts are an important element in the long-term recovery process.

All requests for unmet needs assistance will be coordinated with ESF-15 and approved by the EOC. The Public Information Officer (PIO) and ESF-14: Public Information agencies will support a united and coordinated message to the community of the DRC activations and services provided from local, state, and federal resources to eliminate duplication of efforts. ESF-15 maintains a list of local churches, private non-private volunteer agencies, and civic groups, (i.e., Christ Fellowship, Calvary Chapel, United Way, Red Cross, Treasure Coast Food Bank, Mustard Seed Ministries, Habitat for Humanity) that may be utilized to meet unmet needs.

The teams will talk directly with victims, displaced workers, and people with damage to their homes and businesses. They will provide information about assistance for those people with housing or transportation needs, damage to personal property, business losses, or losses of employment or earnings. In addition, those with expenses such as disaster-related medical bills, mental health counseling, lost earnings or support due to injury or loss of life may also be eligible to receive assistance. Services offered range from financial assistance, clean up, minor and major home repair to crisis and spiritual counseling.

ESF-15, through community-based partnering agencies coordinates training and/or seminars in the areas of emergency home repair, debris removal, donations and warehouse management, processing centers, crisis counseling and other needed assistance.

2.6.1. Emergency Temporary Housing

Following a disaster, temporary housing such as rental units or mobile homes may be needed beyond the period of emergency shelters to accommodate those made homeless by the disaster. St. Lucie County governmental and non-governmental relief will be provided within their capabilities. Additional resources may be required from state or federal governments. The Public Safety Director, and/or his designee, will act as the housing coordinator and liaison with their state counterpart until a lead person is appointed in Recovery Support Function (RSF)4: Housing from the St. Lucie County's Community Services Department.

Temporary housing accommodations may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Unoccupied, available government-owned housing facilities.
- Unoccupied, available housing units financed totally or in part with government funds.
- Privately owned rental properties.
- Mobile homes or readily fabricated dwellings.
- Minimal repairs to victims' home to make it habitable until permanent restoration can be made.
- Mortgage subsidies to, or on behalf of individuals or families who have received written notice of eviction or foreclosure due to financial hardship caused by the disaster.
- Rental assistance to persons who are suffering financial hardship or loss of housing due to the disaster.
- Temporary housing may be established in the form of "tent-cities". The St. Lucie County Airport has been designated as the appropriate location for this type of temporary housing.

SECTION 3: MITIGATION ANNEX

1. PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of the Mitigation Annex is to provide guidance for coordination of local government services and operations during and after a disaster situation within St. Lucie County to address hazard mitigation issues. Mitigation is intended to be implemented with flexibility and to be adjusted to emergency conditions when necessary.

The scope of mitigation is also intended to be both multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional and to encompass cooperative mitigation functions implemented by and for St. Lucie County and its municipalities.

1.1. LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY (LMS)

On November 16, 1999, the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners formally adopted a LMS for the county and its municipalities. The purpose of the St. Lucie County LMS is to develop a unified approach among county, municipal governments, nonprofit and faith-based organizations for dealing with identified hazards and hazard management problems in the St. Lucie County area. This strategy will serve as a tool to direct the county and the St. Lucie Whole Community in their on-going efforts to reduce their vulnerability to the impacts produced by both natural and man-made hazards. The strategy will also help establish funding priorities for currently proposed mitigation projects to be completed with such disaster assistance funds as may be made available after a disaster.

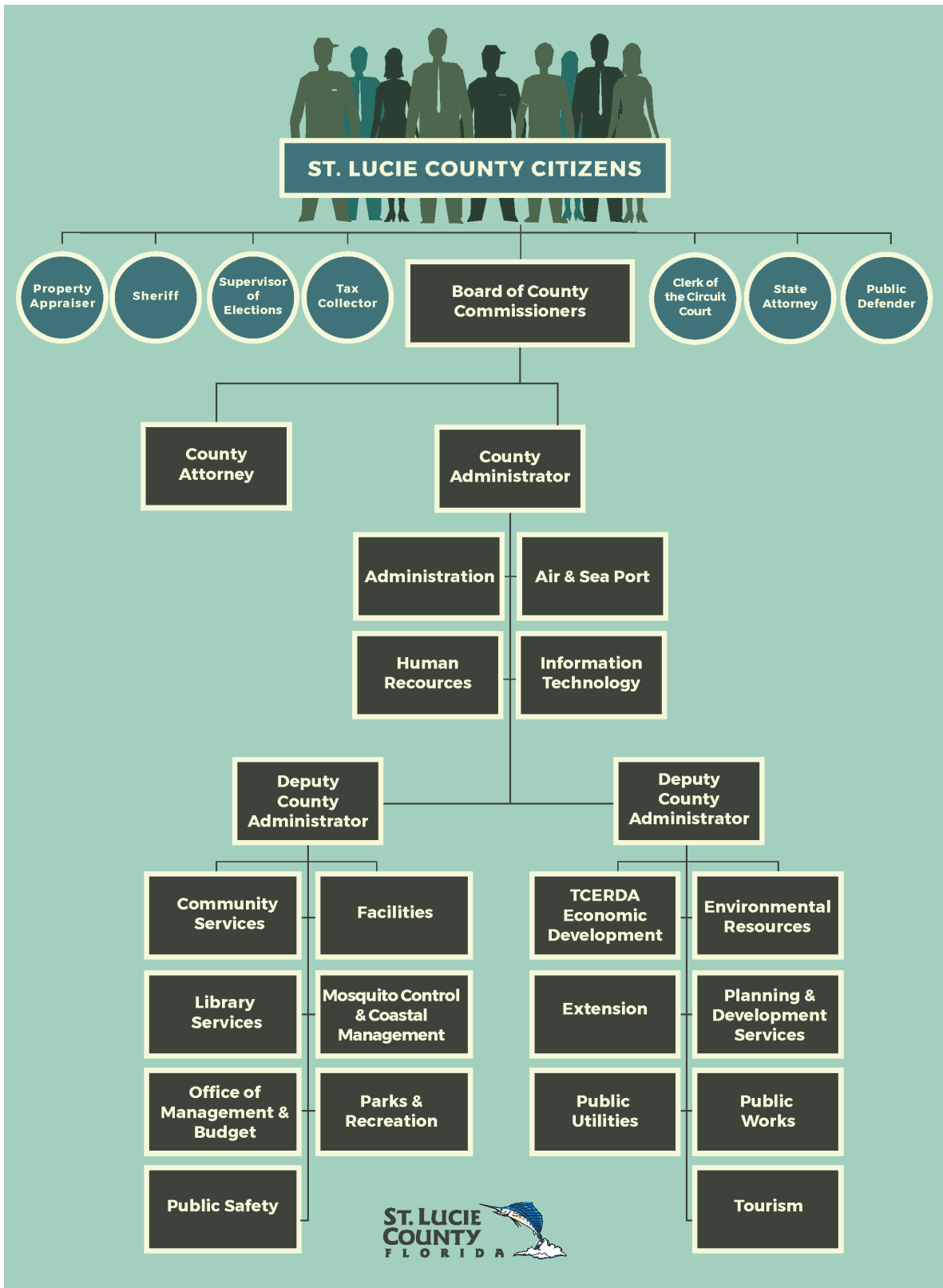
St. Lucie County has a State & FEMA-approved Local Mitigation Strategy, which expires on September 14, 2026.

The Emergency Management Division Manager serves as the LMS Coordinator and coordinates mitigation activities with the LMS working group through LMS meetings, workshops, and electronic correspondence (For additional information of the LMS Coordinator responsibilities, refer to the LMS Plan). The LMS Working Group has been organized to serve as the policy body for the Local Mitigation Strategy program and is responsible for coordinating hazard mitigation activities within the county for both pre-disaster and post-disaster scenarios. The group is coordinated and managed by the Emergency Management Division Manager.

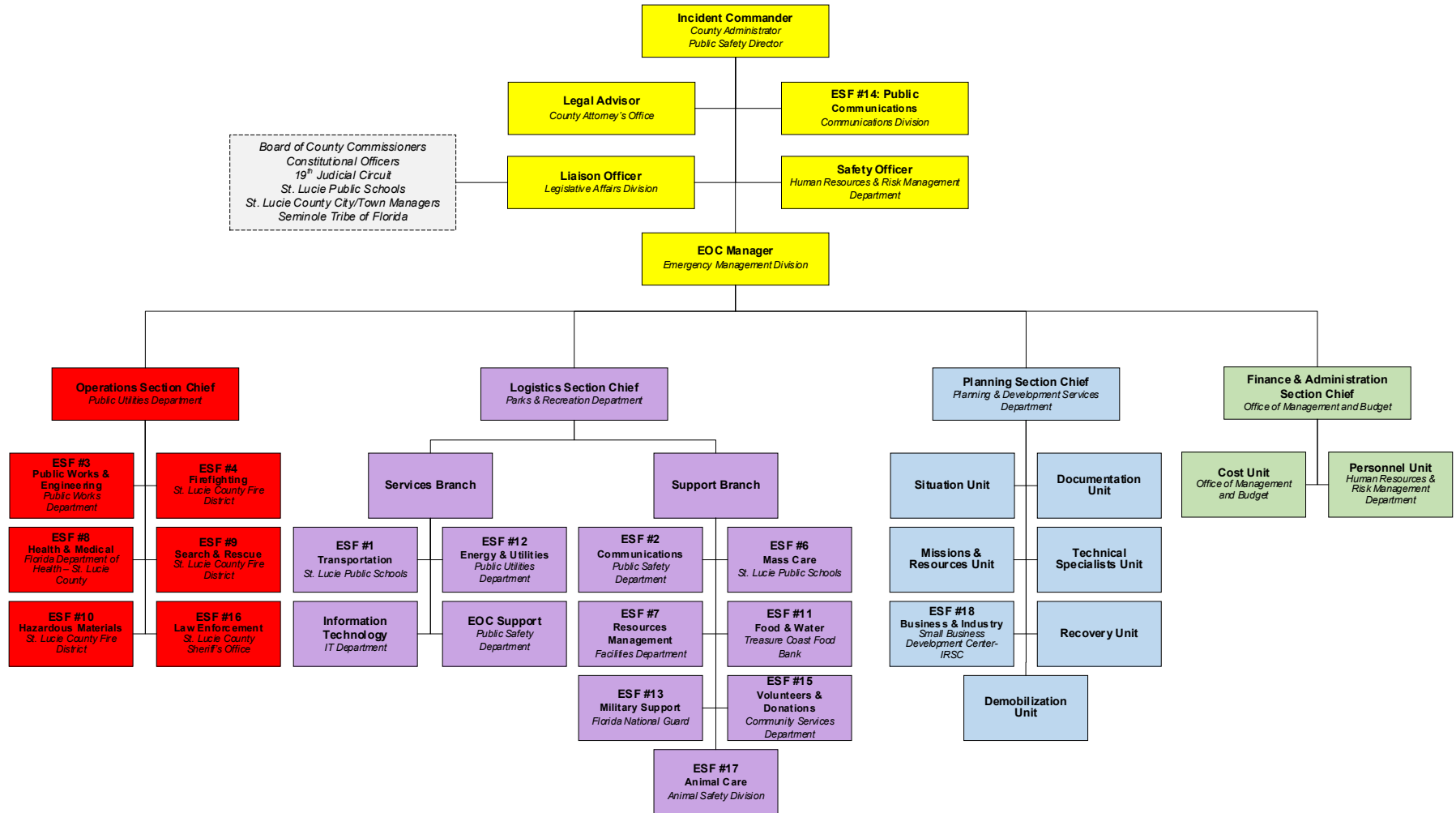
In an effort to mitigate against future flood losses, Floodplain Managers are required by the National Flood Insurance Program to identify damaged structures in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) for substantial damage determination by employing the FEMA Substantial Damage Estimator (SDE) tool. The Emergency Management Planner through the will work with local Floodplain Managers (e.g., municipal and tribe), building officials, the LMS Working Group, Community Rating System (CRS) User Group, in identifying and determining substantially damaged structures located in SFHAs.

SECTION 4: APPENDICES

Appendix 1: St. Lucie County Government Organizational Chart



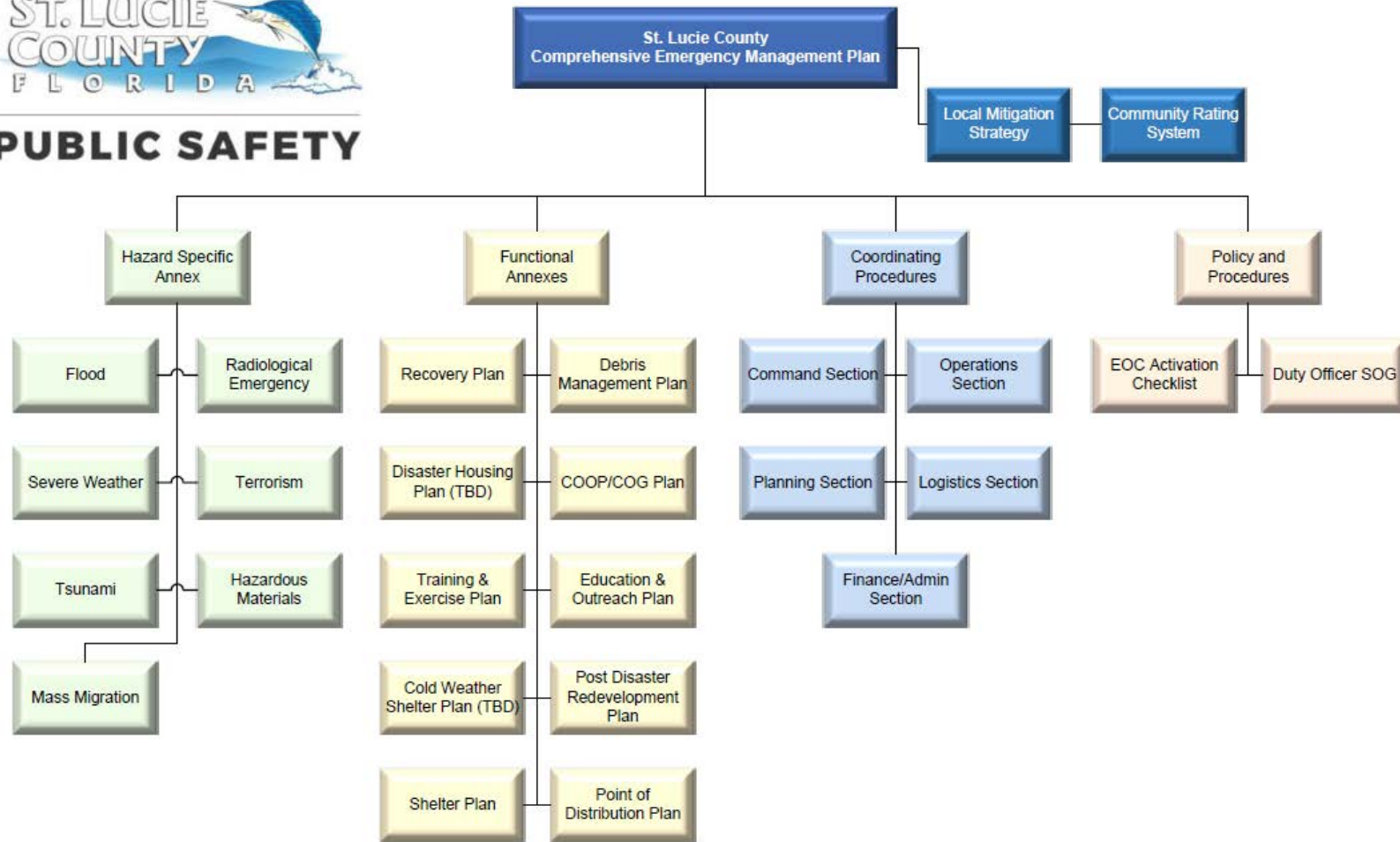
Appendix 2: St. Lucie County EOC Activation Organizational Chart



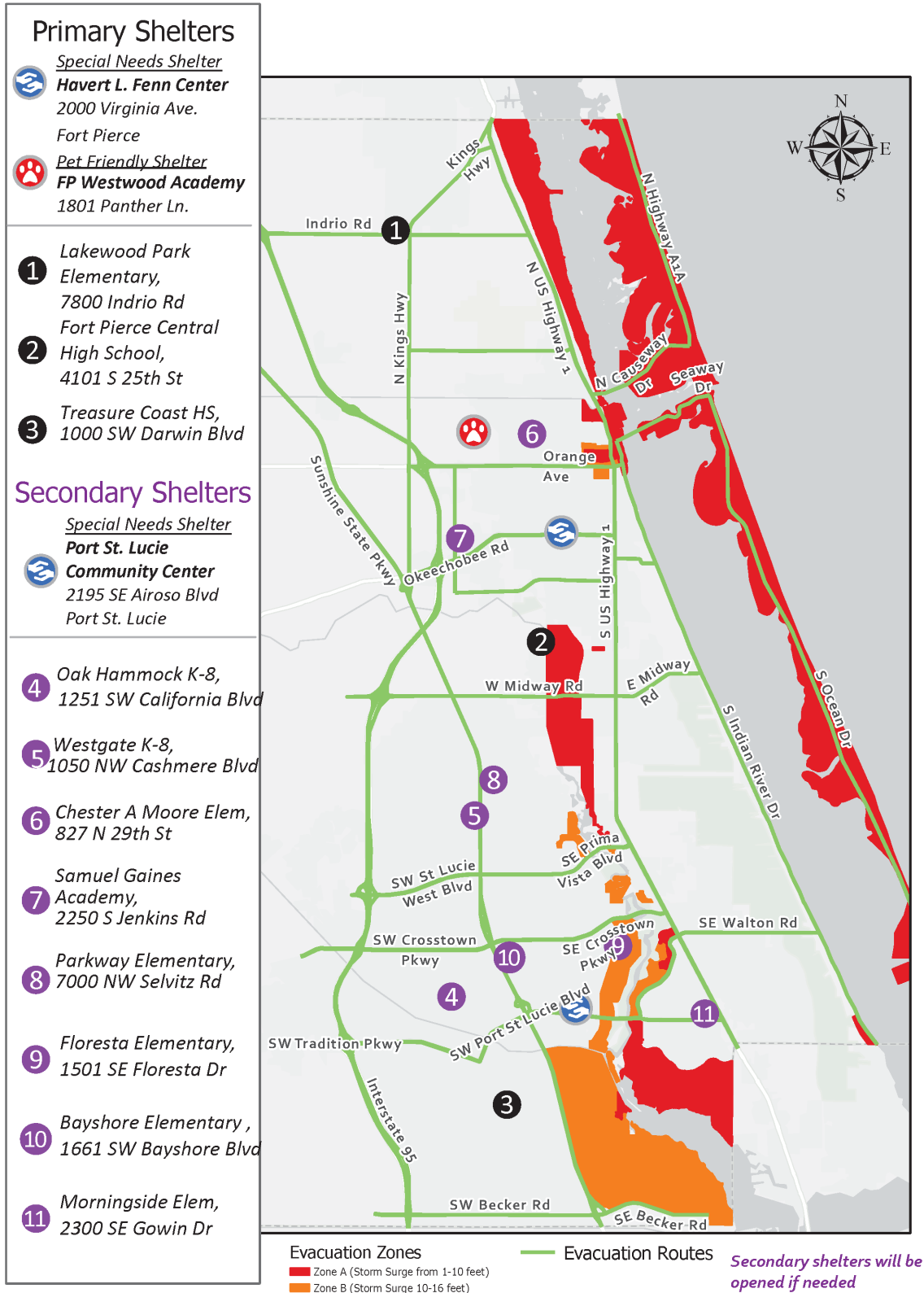
Appendix 3: St. Lucie County CEMP Structural Diagram



PUBLIC SAFETY



Appendix 4: St. Lucie County Emergency Shelters & Evacuation Routes



Check County website or call Public Info Line for shelter openings: www.stlucieco.gov/eoc; 772-460-HELP (4357)