

Pasco County, Florida



COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY Management Plan

2025



"Serving our community to create a better future."

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To: Officials, Employees, and Citizens of Pasco County

This Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) addresses the various methods by which Pasco County will respond to, recover from, prepare for, and mitigate against any natural, man-made and/or technological hazards that have the potential to adversely impact our County.

While no plan can completely prevent injury or damage, quality plans informed by real world data and carried out by knowledgeable and well-trained personnel can reduce losses. This plan establishes the emergency organization, assigns responsibilities, specifies policies, and provides for coordination of planning efforts of the various emergency staff and service elements using the Incident Command System concept.

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

For the purposes of Chapter 252.38, F.S., and 27P-6.006, F.A.C., the Basic Plan, Recovery Annex and Mitigation Annex components shall be considered the Pasco County CEMP and have been approved by the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners (Resolution Number 25-252).

The Basic Plan, Recovery Annex, and Mitigation Annex components provide an overall of the emergency management system. The primary audience is executives, emergency managers, departmental directors, and anyone interested in reviewing or learning about broad concepts of emergency operations in Pasco County. It is expected that the content within these sections will not change on a regular basis.

By their very nature, the content within the Interagency Coordinating Procedures and Position Specific Guides will likely change frequently and as such, to remain timely and accurate, these documents are reviewed and approved by the Director of Emergency Management.

Andrew Fossa
Director
Pasco County Department of Emergency Management

BCC RESOLUTION

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-252

**RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA,
ADOPTING THE PASCO COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, Florida Administrative Rule 27P-6 establishes the criteria for review of local emergency management plans; and

WHEREAS, the "Local Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan Compliance Criteria" which is adopted by reference in Rule 27P-6, sets forth the criteria and format for local emergency management plans; and

WHEREAS, Florida Administrative Rule 27P-6.006(11) requires that the county comprehensive emergency management plan be adopted by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Pasco County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan has been reviewed by the State of Florida, Division of Emergency Management, and declared to be in compliance with the terms of Chapter 27P-6;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Pasco County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, through its Board of County Commissioners, in regular session assembled this date, does hereby declare that the Pasco County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is adopted and authorized to be activated by Pasco County.

DONE AND RESOLVED with a quorum present and voting this 3rd day of June 2025.



BY: Nikki Alvarez-Sowles
NIKKI ALVAREZ-SOWLES, Esq.
PASCO COUNTY CLERK & COMPTROLLER

APPROVED
IN SESSION

JUN 03 2025
PASCO COUNTY
BCC

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

Kathryn Starkey
Kathryn Starkey, CHAIRMAN

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)** establishes the organizational and procedural framework to ensure that Pasco County, and all six of the municipalities contained within its borders, will be adequately prepared for all hazards threatening the lives and property of our citizens. The CEMP outlines the responsibilities and coordination mechanisms of Pasco County agencies and municipalities in a disaster. The CEMP also coordinates response and recovery activities with the business community and voluntary organizations that are active in disasters. The plan unifies the efforts of these groups for a comprehensive approach to reducing the effects of a disaster.

The Plan addresses the five mission areas or phases of emergency management (prevention, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation), parallels state activities outlined in the State of Florida CEMP, federal activities set forth in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) National Response Framework (NRF), and describes how local, state, and national resources will be coordinated to supplement local response and recovery capability. The CEMP is compliant with the criteria issued by the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), Chapter 27P-20, F.A.C., pursuant to F.S. §252.

The CEMP is both a planning and an operations-based document that provides guidance for all aspects of emergency management. The CEMP is organized into three essential elements: The Basic Plan, the Recovery Annex, and the Mitigation Annex.

BASIC PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Based on the unique threat, risk, vulnerability, and the topographic, demographic, and economic profile of Pasco County, the CEMP describes a five-year vision of preparedness activities, establishes concepts of operation for response and recovery, and broadly outlines local mitigation strategies. The CEMP defines the functional roles and responsibilities of each government entity that partners with Pasco County in disaster organization and their relationship to each other.

PLAN COMPONENTS

As outlined, the CEMP is divided into three sections: The Basic Plan, the Recovery Annex, and the Mitigation Annex. The Mitigation Annex is abbreviated due to the County's maintenance of an extensive and comprehensive Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) plan that is updated and approved every five years. Additionally, the CEMP is complimented by Interagency Coordinating Procedures (ICPs) and Position Specific Guides (PSGs) that are maintained internally by the Pasco County Department of Emergency Management (PCDEM). The following describes each section of the CEMP and additional functional plans.

Basic Plan

The Basic Plan outlines the general purpose, scope, and methodology of the plan, to include: coordination, control, organizational structure, and concept of operations. The Basic Plan also identifies responsibilities of all agencies and resources mobilized by Pasco County to assist in responding to and recovering from a disaster. The plan also addresses preparedness activities to include training and exercise, public outreach, education, and the special needs (SPNS) registry. The CEMP enables Pasco County to exercise its responsibility for providing direction and control during any type of disaster.

Recovery Annex

The Recovery Annex provides a detailed plan for how the County recovers from disaster, to include identifying key stakeholders, outlining roles and responsibilities, and establishing procedures for necessary functions. This annex serves as the County's high-level guide for post-disaster recovery activities and, in conjunction with functional ICPs, provides detailed procedures for recovery functions.

Mitigation Annex

The Mitigation Annex provides a synopsis of the County's management of mitigation activities and is supplemented by the County's approved LMS. This annex serves as a high-level overview of the LMS Working Group structure and identifies the parties responsible for implementation and coordination of mitigation activities outlined in the LMS.

Interagency Coordinating Procedures

The ICP section of the CEMP includes details by name and organization, the lead, assisting, and where applicable, coordinating entities, as well as their roles and responsibilities in the five phases of an emergency or disaster. Each ICP outlines specific tasks, or functional procedures, that are applicable regardless of the hazard. These tasks utilize the Incident Command System (ICS) concept of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) job aids where specific tasks for coordinating entities are described in detail.

The following ICPs address a specific function, but may be subject to change as needs are assessed on a continuous base:

- Animal Issues
- County Staging Area
- Damage Assessment
- Debris Management
- Disaster Recovery Center (DRC)
- Volunteer and Donations
- Emergency Communications
- Emergency Notifications
- Emergency Operations Center Management
- Emergency Road Access Teams
- Evacuation
- Family Reunification
- Fuel Management
- Human Needs Assessment
- Mass Fatality
- Points of Distribution
- Public Information
- Resources Management
- Search & Rescue (SAR)
- Sheltering
- Tactical Interoperable Communications
- Temporary Housing

Position Specific Guides

PSG are specific tasks for individual positions which describe in detail the ICS position and are utilized in the EOC to accomplish the functions, missions, or activities outlined by the corresponding ICPs. These guides are reviewed annually and updated as necessary.

PURPOSE

The CEMP is both a planning-based and an operations-based document that provides guidance for all aspects of emergency management including disaster preparedness, evacuation and sheltering, notification and warning, public education and information, resource management, mutual aid, special needs, impact and damage assessment, debris management, training and exercise, and post-disaster recovery programs. The CEMP establishes official emergency management policy for all agencies and municipalities in response to, recovery from, and mitigation of emergencies and disasters within the boundaries of Pasco County. The CEMP initiates a temporary reorganization 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 purpose of:

- Reducing loss of life, injury, and property damage and loss resulting from natural or manmade 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 orderly 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 the ICS regardless of the magnitude of any given incident or disaster.

SCOPE

In general, all six jurisdictions within Pasco County – City of Dade City, City of New Port Richey, City of Port Richey, City of San Antonio, the Town of St. Leo, and City of Zephyrhills are vulnerable to natural or man-made hazards such as tropical cyclones and hurricanes, wildfires, floods, severe storms, drought, and heatwaves.

Costal oil spills and mass immigration events present low to moderate threats to the cities of New Port Richey and Port Richey and to the unincorporated areas of the county, from Hudson to Holiday. Deadly elements that result from tropical cyclones and severe storms pose high threats to this same geographical area. The elements consist of storm surge, lightning, tornadoes, and waterspouts.

Frequent flooding events are most common in New Port Richey, Port Richey, Dade City, Zephyrhills, those areas west of the Suncoast Parkway, and those areas east of I-75 in unincorporated Pasco County. The majority of the county's Repetitive Loss Areas, documented areas of flood concern, are located along the west coast of Pasco County from Hudson to Holiday.

The CEMP is intended to be reflective of Pasco County's multi-jurisdictional commitment to the response doctrine detailed in FEMA's NFR. This doctrine is comprised of five key principles: (1) engaged partnership, (2) tiered response, (3) scalable, flexible, and adaptable operational capabilities, (4) unity of effort through unified command (UC), and (5) readiness to act. The CEMP is informed by lessons learned from the events of local, regional, national, and global significance. Ongoing implementation of the NIMS influences the preparedness and response activities described in this revision to the CEMP. This iteration of the CEMP is further informed by the

Stafford Act, the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, and FEMA's Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101. The CEMP addresses each mission area within the Emergency Management cycle.

Mission Area Descriptions

Mission Area	Description
Protection	Focuses on creating concrete response plans, trainings, and exercises well ahead of a disaster to prepare the community. Through proactive planning, the risk of loss of life and injury can be limited.
Prevention	Utilizes lessons learned from previous disasters, both locally and elsewhere, to determine what is likely to occur during any particular-type and intensity of disaster. Community needs can be identified and prioritized by understanding past events. Adequate planning pre-determines the best utilization of resources in responding to needs. Identification and training of personnel for roles and responsibilities during the disaster is included in this phase. Prevention involves working with the private sector, residents, and volunteer organizations to assist them in pre-disaster education and planning activities to lessen the impact of disasters.
Response	Government responds to emergencies by activating its plans, implementing an effective response, giving direction and control to the emergency management effort, and integrating recovery activities during all phases of the incident. Individuals respond by implementing their own disaster plans, such as evacuating the area or sheltering in place. Private businesses and volunteer organizations implement their plans to secure and protect assets, and if capable, make available resources to help the whole community.
Recovery	Begins as soon as possible and may even begin during the response phase. The emergency management organization initiates procedures to assess needs and resources, establish priorities, review state and federal aid criteria, and coordinates with representatives from both levels of government. Once the extent of the recovery effort is determined, the appointed recovery team members determine how to best manage the specific activities, what resources, and personnel will be required and what actions are needed to return the impacted areas to normal operations as quickly as possible. Assessment of both short- and long-term mitigation measures takes place during this phase and the "after-action" evaluation process is conducted.
Mitigation	mitigation and protection involve identifying and implementing preventative and corrective measures and actions, based upon risk reduction and loss avoidance principles to prevent or limit bodily injury, loss of life, or property damage from disasters before they occur. It includes policy issues as well as structural projects within government and the private sector. A Local Mitigation Strategy Plan (LMS) serves as the guidance document for pre-disaster mitigation planning. Pasco

Mission Area	Description
	County has a State and FEMA-approved Local Mitigation Strategy, which expires on August 21, 2029.

Table 1

METHODOLOGY

Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, (State Emergency Management Act) mandates the development of a county CEMP that is coordinated and consistent with the state CEMP. Further, F.S. 252.38(2) provides that municipalities without emergency management programs shall be served by their respective county agencies. It is the explicit purpose of the CEMP to establish a framework for all-hazards preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation within Pasco County, Florida and its six municipal subdivisions.

In addition to fulfilling the intent of F.S. 252, Pasco County CEMP is built to align with the NRF. This vertical integration supports the principle that, in many situations, emergency operations start at the local level and add state, regional, and federal assets as the affected jurisdiction requires additional resources and capabilities.

The CEMP is developed and maintained by a network of governmental, nongovernmental, and private sector agencies. Contributions to the plan are derived through an orchestrated division of responsibility throughout the community based on area of expertise. PCDEM staff is responsible for maintaining the CEMP, identifying agencies which are instrumental to the maintenance of the plan, and for facilitating the documentation of those agencies' concepts of operation as they relate to emergency and disaster situations. Members of the PCDEM Management Staff are assigned responsibility for specific areas based on their background, experience, and interest and are then required to establish an individual strategy for assisting agencies with their portion of the plan. Strategies may include scheduling meetings between all involved parties, providing whole-community training and exercises, developing, reviewing, and sharing external sources of information related to best practices, standards or lessons learned.

The CEMP is a dynamic, NIMS compliant document that adapts to changes in policy, priorities and needs. State and federal statutes, regulations, and priorities guide development of the document. The CEMP is informed by the policies of government agencies, private partners, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). A list of the public and private entities assisting in the development of this plan can be found in Figure 1.

CEMP Planning Partner Agencies



Figure 1

Local involvement in CEMP planning activities includes:

- Promulgation letter
- County NIMS Implementation Resolution
- Deficiency Measuring/Resolution Process
- Regional Healthcare Preparedness Meetings
- Local Mitigation Strategy Meetings
- Annual Whole-Community Operational-Based Exercises
- Integrated Preparedness Planning

Upon notification of approval of the revised CEMP by FDEM, the PCDEM presents the CEMP to the Pasco County Board of County Commission (BCC) and the six jurisdictions within Pasco County for their acceptance and adoption. The CEMP is then reproduced and formally distributed to the partner agencies identified within the plan as having a primary role in and responsibility for implementation. A record of plan distribution is maintained by the PCDEM.

Revisions to the plan are generated by the staff of the PCDEM as necessary based on lessons learned from incidents and exercises or based on routine changes in operational concepts by any agency described within the plan upon their request. A record of these interim revisions is maintained by the PCDEM and formally communicated to documented owners of a copy of the plan. The plan is maintained on a five-year review schedule, where it is reviewed and updated in entirety prior to review by FDEM and approved by the BCC.

PROMULGATION

As discussed above, this CEMP is divided into three sections: The Basic Plan, the Recovery Annex, and the Mitigation Annex. For the purposes of Chapter 252.38, F.S., and 27P-6.0023, F.A.C., these components shall be considered the Pasco County CEMP and shall be approved by the BCC. The Basic Plan and annexes provide an overview of the emergency management system implemented in Pasco County. The primary audience is executives, emergency managers, departmental directors, and anyone interested in reviewing or learning about broad concepts of emergency operations in Pasco County. It is expected that the content within these sections will not change on a regular basis.

By their very nature, the content within the ICPs and PSGs will likely change frequently and as such, to remain timely and accurate, ICPs and PSGs are reviewed and updated internally as necessary after initial approval by the Director of Emergency Management.

SITUATION

This section of the CEMP describes the potential hazard conditions, geographic characteristics, support facilities, land use patterns, economic profiles, and demographics of Pasco County. It also describes specific planning assumptions regarding protection, preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation, and resilience that were taken into consideration during the development of this plan.

HAZARDS ANALYSIS

Pasco County is vulnerable to a variety of natural and man-made hazards that threaten its communities, businesses, and the environment. The full details of this analysis are contained in Section II of the 2024 Pasco County LMS. The LMS identifies potential hazards and discusses the impact each hazard may have on Pasco County's citizens, visitors, property, environment, and economy while considering the geographic location of the impact within the county as well as the likely frequency of these hazards. 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 the CEMP. Planning for hazards in this manner illustrates how disasters affect the county's critical facilities and their essential services. In turn, priorities are established for recovery efforts after a disaster.

During events where the local lead agencies are unable to contain the scope or complexity of the incident or in the case of multiple incidents occurring during a major event, the EOC activates to provide coordination for response and recovery efforts. The response and recovery sections of the CEMP may be applied to these incidents and existing mutual aid agreements within the county and the surrounding counties may be activated to provide the necessary response and recovery assistance.

Hazards

The information below shows the vulnerability ranking for Unincorporated Pasco County and all six municipalities. More detailed information on specific hazards can be found in the 2024 Pasco County LMS.

- Tropical Cyclones and Hurricanes – High
- Floods – High
- Severe Storms – High
- Wildfires – High
- Drought/Extreme Heat – Medium
- Severe Cold/Freezes – Medium
- Erosion – Medium
- Earthquakes – Low
- Dam/Levees Break – Low
- Landslides – Low
- Tsunamis – Low

The recent impacts from Hurricane Helene in late September 2024 and Hurricane Milton in early October 2024 reinforce the vulnerability ranking, with hurricanes and floods both being identified as high vulnerability events for Pasco County. These hurricanes impacted the county in quick succession, causing millions of dollars in damage to both public and private structures. These storms exposed extreme susceptibility to storm surge on the west side of the county, and closed basin and riverine flooding on the east side of the county. Hurricane Helene resulted in eight feet of storm surge in some areas in the county west of U.S. Highway 19. Pockets of the county experienced rainfall an excess of 15 inches during Hurricane Milton, which contributed to historic flooding of the Anclote River, Cypress Creek, Withlacoochee River, and Hillsborough River.

Hazard Prioritization Process

Four high, three medium, and four low vulnerability hazards were identified and analyzed as required between the State of Florida CEMP Guideline Criteria and the Local Mitigation Strategy requirements. Each local government has different priorities based on the outcome of hazard analysis.

Each hazard was identified and ranked by vulnerability based on different criteria (probability of occurrence, economic impact, and people and structures impacted). The LMS highlights the vulnerability ranking in detail for all six municipalities that is not included in the CEMP. More details on these hazards can be found in the 2024 Pasco County LMS.

Pasco County's Local Mitigation Strategy Sub-committee members, who are subject matter experts, reviewed the seven medium-to-high vulnerability hazards and used a normative group process to rank hazards based on frequency, severity, damage estimates, and professional knowledge. The committee also addressed the priority of hazards that call for the development of standard operating guidelines, resource identification, impact analysis, mitigation strategies, performance objectives, hazard elimination, and mitigation activities.

Due to the low probability and/or consequence associated with a number of these risks within Pasco County – such as commercial nuclear power plant incidents, civil disturbance, mass migration, terrorism, exotic pests and diseases, disease and pandemic outbreaks, major transportation incidents, and special events – the LMS Working Group elected to discuss these minimally.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The updated analysis of potential hazards is the basic component of any community's existing comprehensive emergency management plan. A complete understanding of the community's geography, demographics, and land use trends is essential to be able to minimize the possible loss of life, human suffering, and damage to public and private property associated with major natural or man-made incidents. This information is used to identify those hazards that require an organized response to properly manage related activities, so that needed priorities and actions can be updated.

The hazard analysis involves not only knowledge of the kinds of hazards to which the city is subjected, but also specific estimates of people and property at risk from a hazard. When this measure of vulnerability, reflecting a worst-case situation, is combined with available hazard information, the community can estimate the frequency and extent of damage as well as the areas and persons affected. This combination of factors is the key to determining if present capabilities are adequate for mitigating, preparing for, and responding to an emergency, and, if found inadequate, identifying procedures needed to upgrade these capabilities.

GEOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Pasco County is located on the west central coast of Florida, bordered on the north by Hernando County, on the east by Polk and Sumter Counties, on the south by Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties, and on the west by the Gulf of Mexico. The area for Pasco County totals 763.05 square

miles, 744.28 square miles of land area, and 18.77 square miles of water including inland, coastal, territorial, new reservoirs, and other man-made lakes.

Over 93% of the County is considered unincorporated. There is a total of six municipalities located throughout Pasco County. Table 2 describes the name, square footage, and location within the county. There is also a visual representation of the county boundaries and municipal boundaries in Figure 2.

Breakdown of the Municipalities

Municipality	Square Miles	Location in Pasco County
City of Dade City	7.85	Northeast Pasco
City of New Port Richey	4.61	Southwest Pasco
City of Port Richey	2.18	Central West Pasco
City of San Antonio	1.38	Central East Pasco
Town of St. Leo	1.39	Central East Pasco
City of Zephyrhills	9.83	Southeast Pasco

Table 2

Pasco County City Limits Map

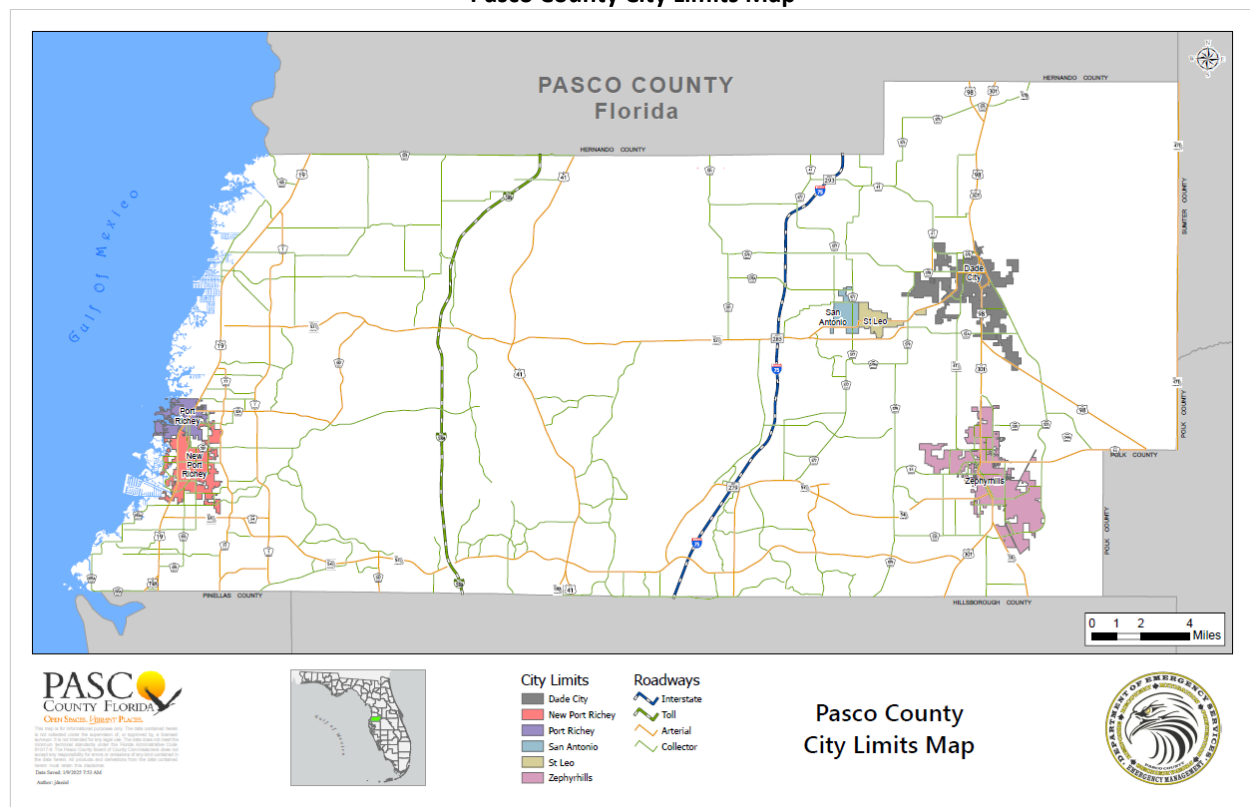


Figure 2 – Source: Pasco County Geographic Information System (GIS)

The county is characterized by discontinuous highlands in the form of ridges separated by broad valleys. The ridges are above the static level of the water in the aquifer, but the broad valleys are

below it. Broad shallow lakes are common on the valley floors, and smaller, deep lakes are on the ridges. Based on physiography, the county can be divided into five areas: the Coastal Swamps, the Gulf Coastal Lowlands, the Brooksville Ridge, the Tsala Apopka Plain, and the Western Valley.

The Coastal Swamp area of the county extends the length of the county and is approximately two miles in width. Moving inland, the terrain gradually changes from shallow marine water to salt marshes to freshwater swamps. The Gulf Coastal Lowlands lie between the Coastal Swamps, the Brooksville Ridge, and the Western Valley. The elevation ranges between 10 and 50 feet above sea level. The Brooksville Ridge extends south from Hernando County to about the area of Zephyrhills. It extends from C.R. 581 on the west to U.S. 301 on the east. The elevation varies from about 70 to 300 feet over short distances. The Tsala Apopka Plain extends south from Hernando County east of U.S. 301 to about three miles north of Dade City. It is about six miles wide and ranges in elevation from about 75 to 85 feet above sea level. The Western Valley extends the length of the county on the eastern side. The Valley turns west at the termination of the Brooksville Ridge and unites with the Gulf Coastal Lowlands at Zephyrhills Gap. It contains the valleys of the Withlacoochee and Hillsborough Rivers. Figure 3 shows a visual representation of all lakes, rivers, and streams within the County.

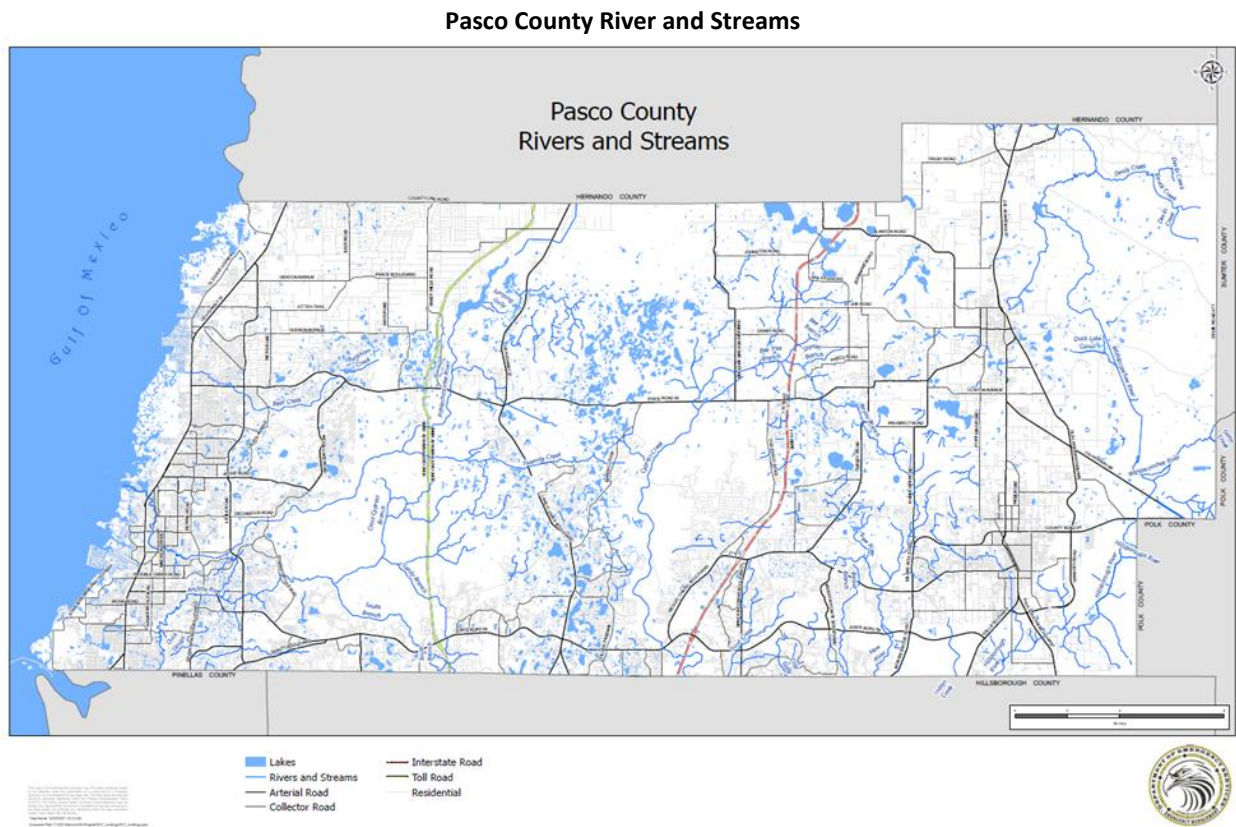


Figure 3 – Source: Pasco County GIS

The Withlacoochee, Hillsborough, Pithlachascotee, and Anclote Rivers are the major permanent streams and surface drainage systems in the county. Numerous small streams and creeks are found along the coast, and most of the springs lie along the coastal areas, some with submarine caves. Pasco County holds over 5,000 lake, Stormwater retention ponds, natural ponds, and other water features. During extended dry periods, many of the 5,000 lakes and retention ponds are greatly reduced in size and some dry up completely.

Land Development/Historic Development Patterns

Since 1887, the physical character of the county has changed from a rural, agricultural base to an urban environment. Nearly one third of Pasco County land is in public ownership for conservation. Within Pasco County there are more than 100 square miles of managed recreational facilities including parks, more than fifteen golf courses, and three state-designated canoe trails.

Pasco County is the northernmost jurisdiction in the Tampa Bay Metropolitan Statistical Area. The oldest municipality and the official county seat, Dade City is located on U.S. 301 in the northeastern part of the county. In area, the largest cities are New Port Richey and Zephyrhills. Located on the west coast, New Port Richey also is the most populous – a beneficiary of spillover growth from Pinellas County. Consequently, New Port Richey has a development pattern that may be categorized as the most urban in Pasco County's incorporated areas. Zephyrhills, located south of Dade City on U.S. 301 in eastern Pasco, differs markedly. Its development pattern is predominately rural in character as are San Antonio, St. Leo, and Dade City.

The settlement patterns observed in Pasco County can be explained by a combination of several factors, not the least of which is transportation. Pasco County is served by five major north-south roadways and two major east-west roadways. The most heavily populated areas are situated along U.S. 19, which connects St. Petersburg to Tallahassee via the coastal area of Pasco County. The toll road, Suncoast Parkway, provides an express connection from Tampa in the south to Citrus County in the north. U.S. 41, which connects Tampa with Brooksville and beyond, bisects Pasco County in the vicinity of Land O'Lakes. The suburbanization of northwestern Hillsborough County has had a significant influence on the southern part of U.S. 41 in Pasco County. Parallel to and east of U.S. 41 is I-75, which connects Tampa to Gainesville and Georgia. Development in the I-75 corridor has concentrated primarily at the S.R. 54 and S.R. 56 interchanges and has been influenced by development pressures occurring Hillsborough County to the south. East of I-75 is U.S. 301, which connects Tampa to Jacksonville. At the intersection of U.S. 301 with S.R. 54 and S.R. 52 are the cities of Zephyrhills and Dade City, respectively.

S.R. 54 and S.R. 52 are the only major arterials that connect cities in the eastern half of the county with those in the west. S.R. 54, defined as a development corridor, connects Zephyrhills with New

Port Richey along with the county's southern border, while S.R. 52, defined as a transit corridor, connects Dade City, St. Leo, San Antonio, and the coastal communities via a more central route.

Currently, the most densely populated area is along the coast where flooding potential is the highest and where transportation facilities, particularly U.S. 19, are least able to handle additional growth, as shown in Figure 4. Pasco County is rapidly urbanizing along its southern fringe. The heaviest population concentrations reside in proximity to U.S. 19, S.R. 54, U.S. 301, and I-75. The major focus of recent suburbanization occurs along S.R. 54 in south central Pasco in the Odessa, Land O'Lakes, and Wesley Chapel areas.

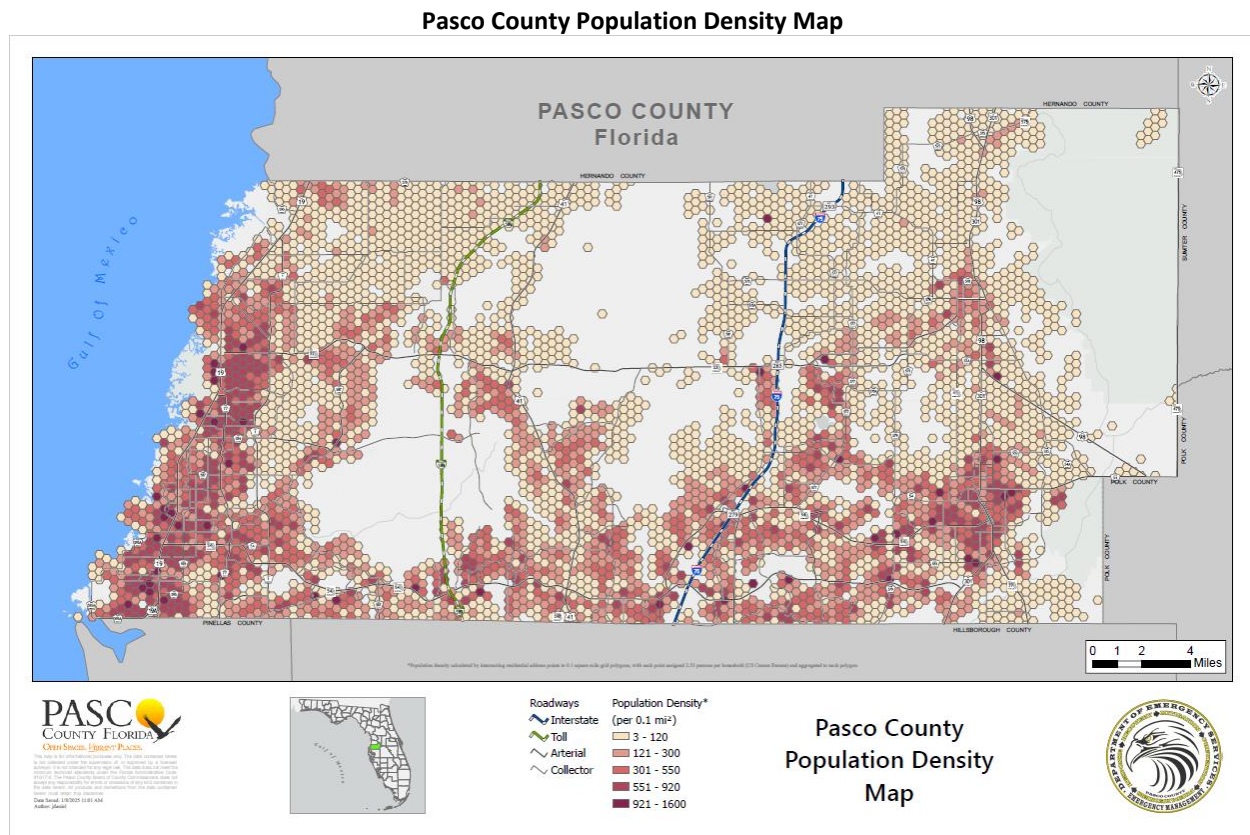


Figure 4 – Source: Pasco County GIS; U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Population

Table 3 and Figure 5 provide a summary of the future land use allocation of unincorporated Pasco County based upon 2018 data. Many lands in Pasco are designated for residential use, and approximately 40% of lands are intended to be reserved for agricultural and conservation purposes. Redevelopment plans such as the Harbors: West Market Redevelopment Plan concentrates redevelopment efforts along the U.S. 19 Corridor. The Gateway Corridor of S.R. 54 within the urban service area should be targeted for further development. Furthermore, the zoning standards adopted through the years are designed to limit overcrowding, blight, and loss

of health and property from various hazards that affect the County. Additional information regarding future land use can be found in the current Pasco County Comprehensive Plan.

2025 Future Land Use Map

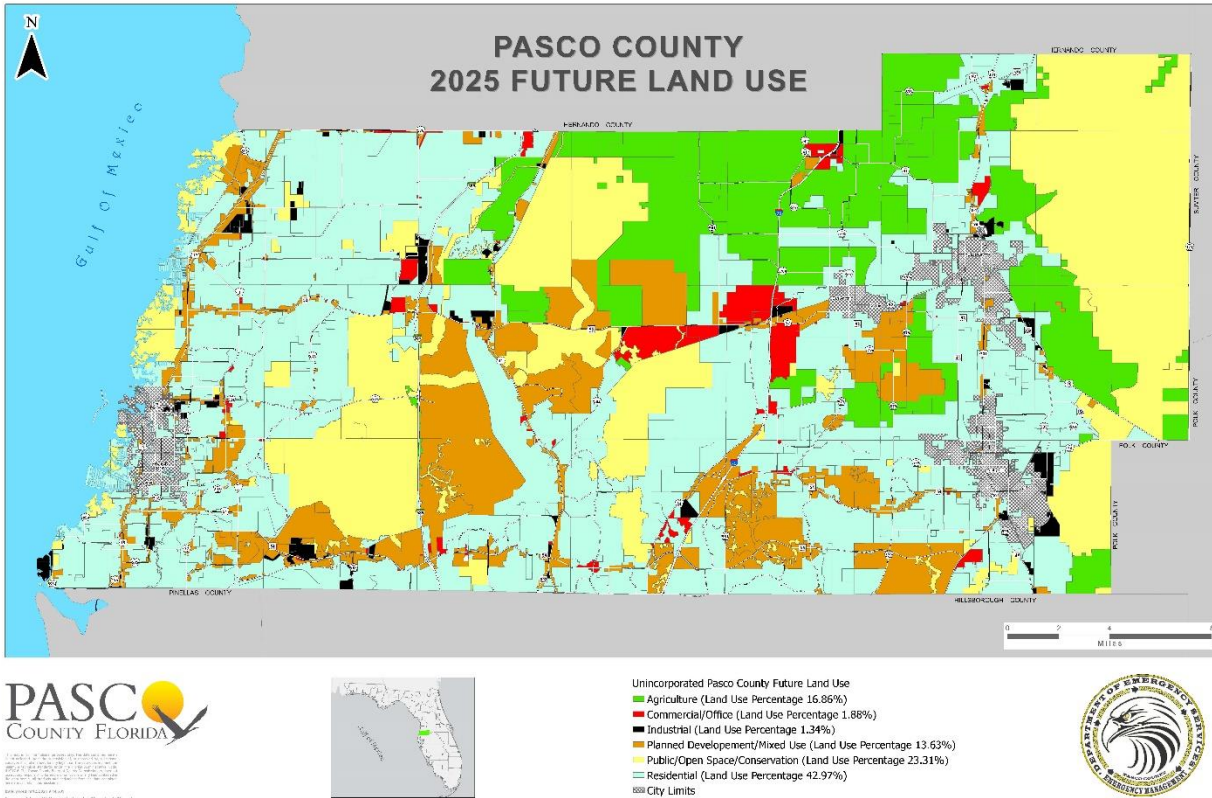


Figure 5 – Source: Pasco County Comprehensive Plan; Pasco County GIS

Future Land Use Percentage Broken down by Land Type

Land Use Type	Future Land Use Percentage
Agriculture	16.86% of unincorporated Pasco County was classified as agricultural lands. It is decreasing due to the conversion of these agricultural lands into lands for development of residential and other non-agricultural uses. Future Land Use Code: AG, AG/R
Residential	42.97% of unincorporated Pasco County was classified as residential lands. It is the largest land use in unincorporated Pasco County. It is increasing due to the growing residential needs from adjacent counties. The largest component of residential uses within Pasco County is single-family homes. There is an increasing need for multifamily residential structures. Future Land Use Codes: RES-1, RES-3, RES-6, RES-9, RES-12, & RES-24
Commercial/Office	1.88% of unincorporated Pasco County was classified as commercial/office uses. It is rising due to the growing retail and employment needs to accommodate the increasing population. Future Land Use Codes: AT, COM, EC, GH, OF

Land Use Type	Future Land Use Percentage
Industrial	Industrial development accounts for the smallest percentage of existing land uses in the unincorporated area of Pasco County. Currently, existing industrial uses account for only 1.34% of the county's land area. As with the commercial/office land uses, the highly limited amount of existing industrial uses is symptomatic of the lack of economic and employment activity centers in Pasco County. Future Land Use Codes: IH, IL
Public/Open Space/ Conservation	23.31% of unincorporated Pasco County is classified as public lands. Public lands, as broadly defined in this land use classification, are the second largest land use in unincorporated Pasco County. The largest component of the public land classification is the lands that are used as forests, parks, recreation, and conservation. Future Land Use Codes: C/L, CON, P/SP, & R/OS
Planned Developments / Mixed Use	Planned Developments and Mixed-Use future land uses are intended to intensify developments within a site and include residential, commercial and/or industrial uses. Pasco County currently has 13.63% of its land area dedicated to such development. Future Land Use Code: MU, NPC, NT, PD, ROR, TC & VMU

Table 3 – Source: 2016 Pasco County Comprehensive Plan; Pasco County GIS Department Growth Patterns & Development Trends

Flood Prone Areas

Based on the most recent FEMA FIS/FIRM Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) approximately 42.6% of Pasco County is in the 100 Year Flood Plain (Zones A, AH, & AE) and vulnerable to localized freshwater flooding. Pasco County also contains significant wetland areas. Approximately 2.3% (Zones V & VE) of the county is in the coastal high hazard area (CHHA) and subject to saltwater flooding. Pasco County addressed flooding and water quality problems and basin specific studies in priority watersheds. Additional information regarding flooding vulnerabilities can be found in the most recent Pasco County LMS Plan and is updated annually by the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Pasco County is home to significant environmentally sensitive lands, including nature preserves and wilderness parks, aquifer recharge areas, and wellfields serving the regional potable water supply. These areas warrant special consideration during emergency operations. These properties are not appropriate locations for debris fields, access roads, equipment staging or other impacts.

Environmental Lands and Wilderness Parks

Pasco County has a significant number of properties acquired, in whole or in part, for the purpose of environmental protection. Over the course of several decades, the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) has acquired significant landholdings in Pasco County to

provide water resource protection. These areas include the expansive Green Swamp West Tract, Cypress Creek Wellfield, Conner Preserve, and the Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park and Serenova Tract. Additionally, the State of Florida owns and manages Werner-Boyce Salt Springs State Park, which contains highly sensitive coastal habitats.

Properties protected through the Environmental Lands Acquisition and Management Program (ELAMP) includes but is not limited to the Upper Pithlachascotee River Preserve, Aripeka Sandhills, Pasco Palms, and the Morsani Ranch (now known as the Jumping Gully Preserve). Impacts to these areas should be avoided due to their environmental sensitivity and associated management plans. These properties contain rare and sensitive habitat types including globally rare xeric oak scrub, sandhill, and salterns, as well as rare and listed flora and fauna. It is also notable that the Upper Pithlachascotee River Preserve is jointly owned and managed by the State of Florida through the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) Program and that the Aripeka Sandhills Tract is jointly owned and managed by the SWFWMD as part of the larger Weekiwachee Preserve. As a result of these partnerships, these properties are further restricted by FCT and the SWFWMD, respectively.

Wilderness parks are acquired and managed by the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Department. In contrast to parks acquired for athletics and other active recreational purposes, the wilderness parks were acquired, in part, for environmental protection and to provide users with passive recreational opportunities. As such, impacts to these areas should be avoided. Wilderness Parks include Jay B. Starkey Wilder Park and Serenova Tract, Withlacochee River Park, Crews Lake Wilderness Park, Eagle Point Park, Key Vista Nature Park, Anclote Gulf Park, Anclote River Park, Robert K. Rees Memorial Park, and Belcher Mine Park Site.

Wellfields and Wellhead Protection Areas

Pasco County wellfields include Cypress Creek, Cypress Bridge, Cross Bar, Starkey, and South Pasco. These wellfields provide drinking water to the region through Tampa Bay Water. Impacts to these areas should be avoided at all costs for public safety and welfare.

Conservation Strategy

Seven wildlife corridors, previously termed Critical Linkages, were identified in the Assessment of Measures to Protect Wildlife Habitat in Pasco County report by Glatting Jackson. These seven Critical Linkages, shown in Figure 6, are areas identified as regionally significant to maintain a contiguous ecological network of planned and managed habitat between existing public lands to conserve, restore, and sustain the county's natural resources. The BCC accepted the Glatting Jackson report in 2002 and adopted the Critical Linkages in the Conservation Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Objective CON 1.2 and its associated policies provide protection for the Critical Linkages. Additionally, the ELAMP was created in July 2004 when Pasco County adopted

Referendum No. 04-233. ELAMP is responsible for purchasing environmentally sensitive lands throughout the County by either fee title or less-than-fee methods. As such, impacts to the Critical Linkages should be avoided. Any use deemed essential in an emergency should align with existing impacts along roads or power lines where possible.

Figure 6 depicts the Critical Linkages as adopted by the BCC in the Comprehensive Plan. Since that time, the term “Critical Linkages” has been changed to “Ecological Corridors” to more accurately describe their function. On June 21, 2016, the BCC adopted Ordinance No. 16-13, Ecological Corridors LDC Section 804, which became effective June 24, 2016. With this ordinance, ELAMP is the responsible entity to protect lands in the designated Ecological Corridors through the planning process or through acquisition. The BCC finalized the associated Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment. Protection should be provided to the existing Critical Linkages and significant care should be used within and around the Ecological Corridors. Figure 6 also depicts lands that have been acquired by the ELAMP and lands that have been reviewed and approved which are on the official ELAMP Acquisition List as of January 2025.

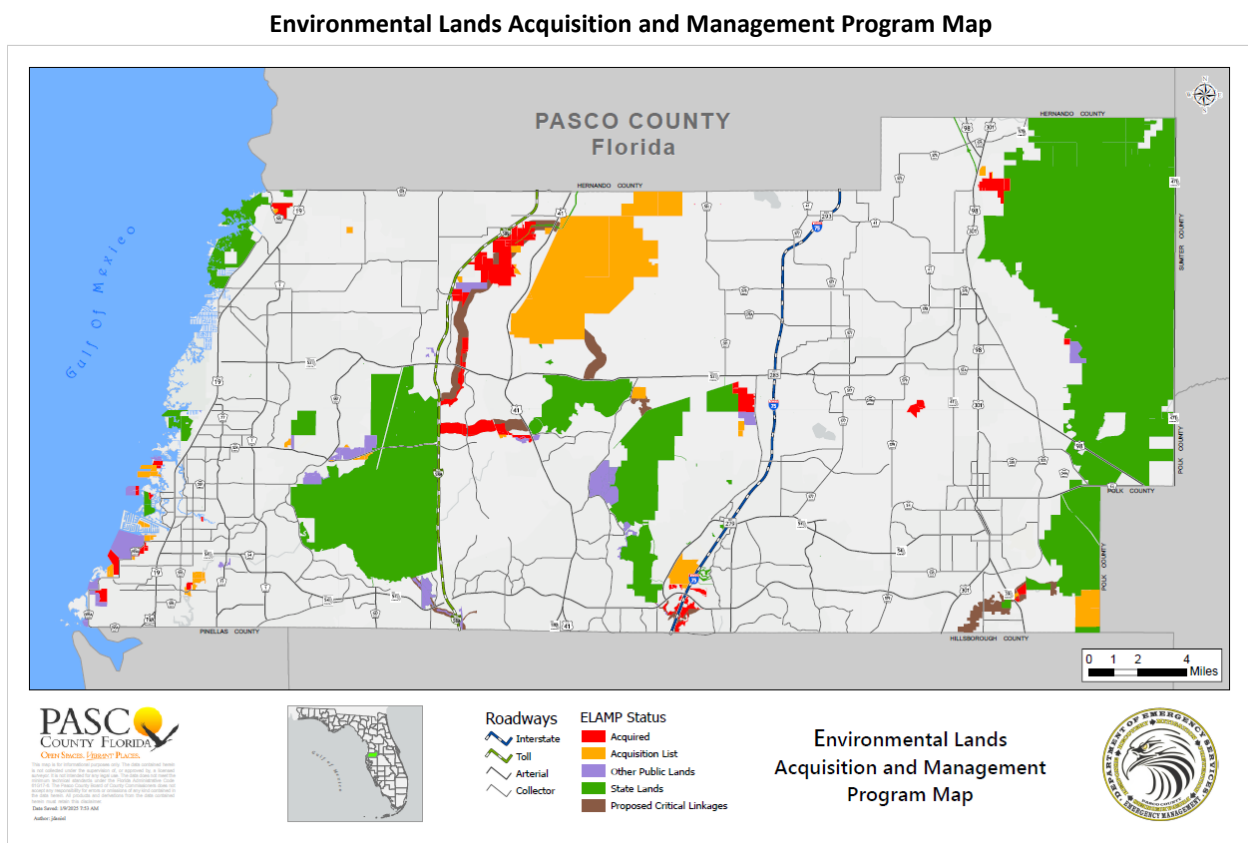


Figure 6— Source: Pasco County Parks, Recreation, & Natural Resources; Pasco County GIS

Rivers and Estuaries

Figure 7 depicts the significant waterways in Pasco County including the four major rivers: Anclote, Hillsborough, Pithlachascotee, and Withlacoochee as well as the watersheds that encompass the County. The rivers have federal, state, regional, and local protection. Impacts should be highly avoided due to their importance for public drinking water, their sensitive habitat types, the rare and listed flora and fauna that inhabit them, and the ecosystem values they impart (flood protection, water quality, storm protection, and the like). Objective CON 1.6 details the policies for protecting groundwater and surface water resources and includes a required 50-foot setback from the mean annual flood line, as established by the Southwest Florida Water Management District of the Anclote, Hillsborough, Pithlachascotee, and Withlacoochee Rivers (Policy CON 1.6.1a).

Watersheds and Major Rivers Map

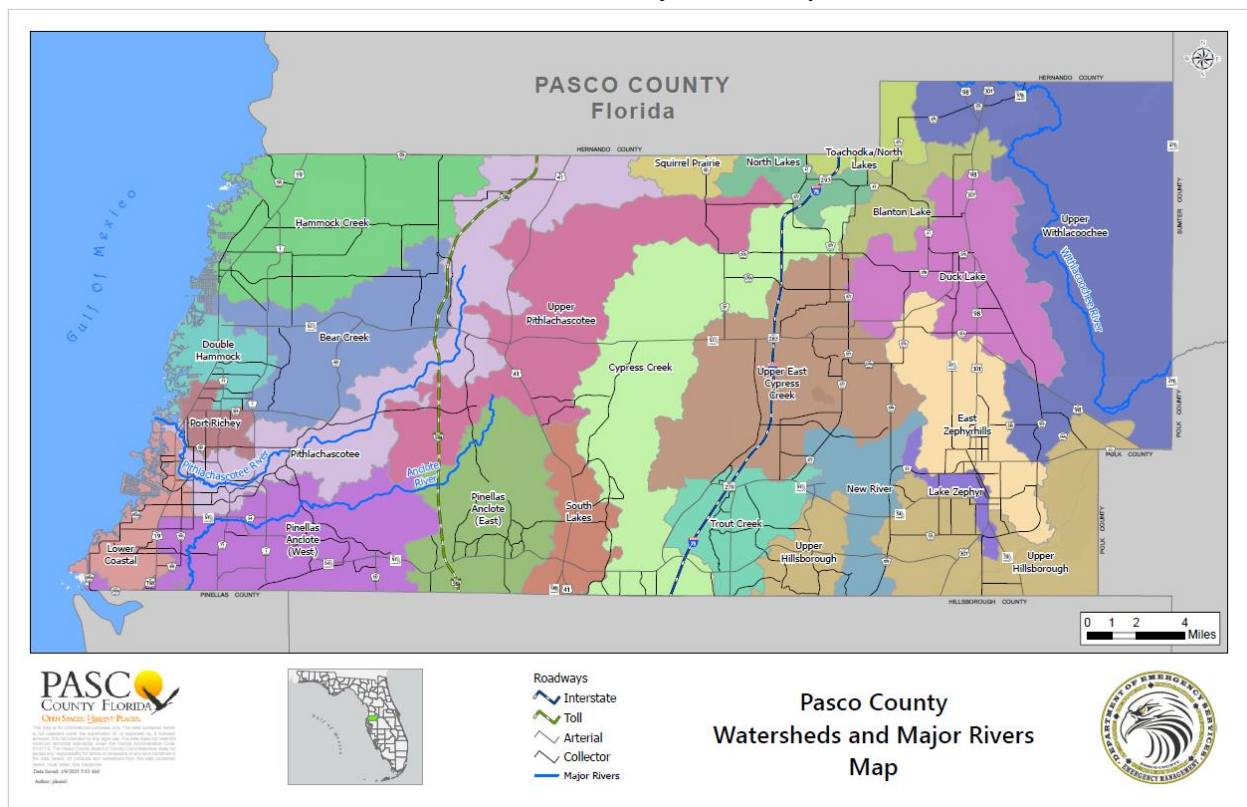


Figure 7— Source: Pasco County GIS

The major streams within the county are the Withlacoochee River in the eastern portion, Hillsborough River in southeast, Anclote River in the south and west, and the Pithlachascotee River in the western and central sectors. The Withlacoochee River, which flows northwesterly through the eastern and northern sections of Pasco County from the Green Swamp in Polk County to the Gulf of Mexico, near Yankeetown, is approximately 157 miles in length. The Hillsborough River, which also originates at Green Swamp, flows through the southeastern corner of Pasco

County southwesterly for approximately 54 miles into Hillsborough Bay at the City of Tampa. The North Branch Anclote River flows southwesterly to its confluence with South Branch Anclote River. They form the Anclote River, which then flows for approximately 21 miles into the Gulf of Mexico. The Anclote River watershed includes approximately 120 square miles. Pithlachascotee River originates near the City of Brooksville in Hernando County and flows southwesterly through Pasco County to the Gulf of Mexico at the City of Port Richey.

Wetlands

Figure 8 shows the vast expanses of wetlands in Pasco County and their categories of protection. In addition to federal and state protection of wetlands, Pasco County's Conservation Element, found in the comprehensive plan, provides for specific protection by wetland category. Objection CON 1.3 defines the wetland categories and required buffers for all Category I wetlands. Policy CON 1.3.6 provides for protection of Category I wetlands, preventing removal, alteration, or dredging to natural hydro period or water quality of Category I wetlands. Impacts to Category I wetlands should be avoided unless there are cases where no other feasible and practicable alternative exists that will permit a reasonable use of the land. Impacts to Categories II and III wetlands are allowed unless contrary to public interest, but the consultation with the Army Corps of Engineers and SWFWMD is recommended for proper buffer specifications.

Wetlands Map

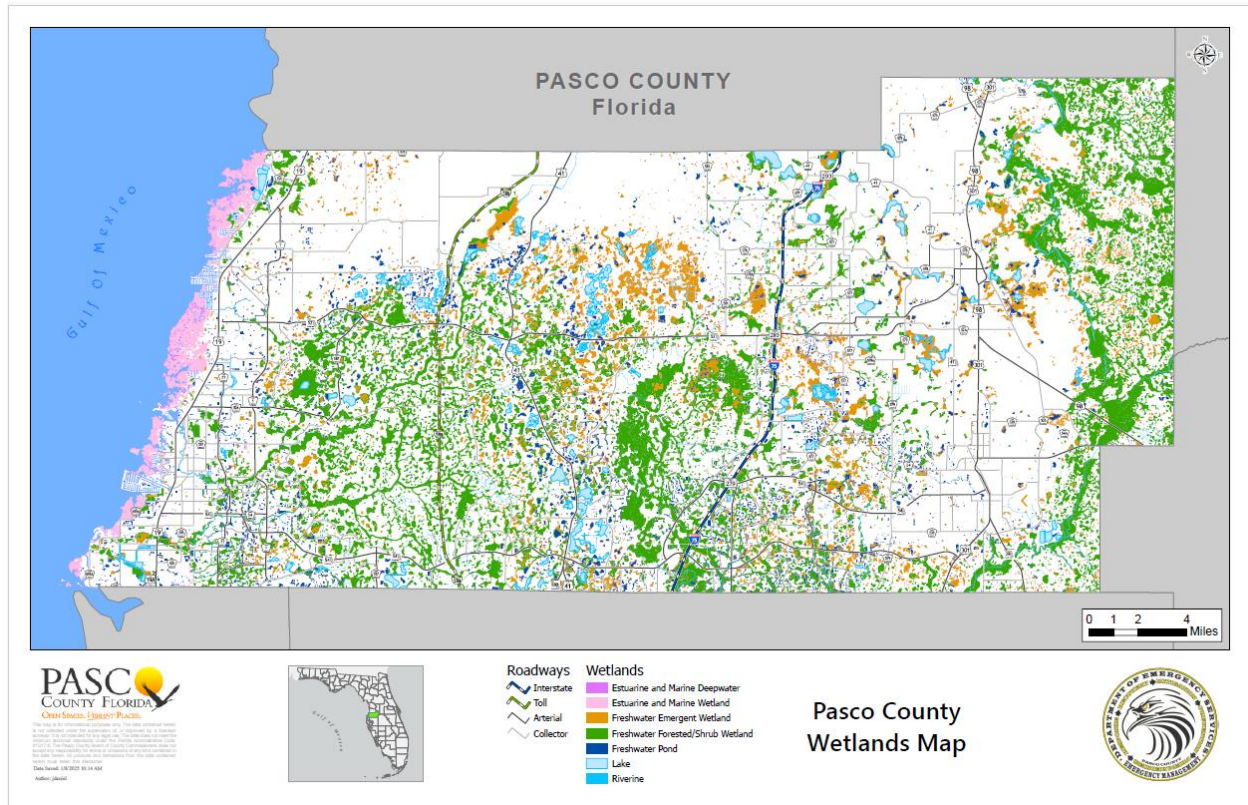


Figure 8— Source: Pasco County GIS

DEMOGRAPHICS

The LMS plan serves as Pasco County's main risk and vulnerability assessment. If specific demographics are vulnerable to hazards, it is identified in the LMS. The information below in Table 4 provides supplemental information to the County Profile and Risk Assessment sections of the latest LMS.

Jurisdiction	Total Population			
	Population 2010	Population 2020	Percent Change 2010-2020 (Increase)	Population Estimates 2023
City of New Port Richey	14,911	16,695	10.7%	17,332
City of Port Richey	2,671	3,052	12.5%	3,027
City of Zephyrhills	13,288	17,182	22.7%	19,285
Dade City	6,437	7,108	9.4%	7,670
City of San Antonio	1,138	1,297	12.3%	1,235
Town of St. Leo	1,340	2,362	43.3%	1,277
Total Incorporated	39,785	47,696	16.6%	49,826
Unincorporated Pasco County	39,785	47,696	16.6%	608,794
Total Pasco County	464,697	591,891	21.5%	632,996

Table 4 – Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 and 2020 population; 2023 American Community Survey 5-year estimated population

Population Information

Certain segments of the population warrant additional attention as a result of their unique demographic characteristics. These segments of the population are most likely to sustain damage in a disaster and might have limited means to prepare, mitigate, or recover from a major catastrophic event. For example, low-income households have a higher possibility of being uninsured or underinsured and might find it difficult to find alternate housing and/or do necessary repairs to their homes following a disaster. Likewise, female heads-of-household with children might have fewer resources for childcare and find it difficult to get back to work after a disaster. Planning for the Special Needs Population is also challenging as some of these groups (infirm, transient, homeless) are difficult to identify and access.

Additionally, these groups typically partake in fewer preparedness activities than the general population, and therefore, require a higher level of intervention from service providers during the response and recovery phases after a disaster.

Population Density

With a land area of 747 square miles, Pasco County has the highest percentage of undeveloped land within the Tampa Bay Region. According to the 2020 US Census, Pasco County had a population of 591,891 and 2023 estimates reflected a population of 632,996 making it the 30th largest county in Florida by total area. The highest concentration of population exists towards

the western coast between US 19 and Little Road with a population density of at least 2,000 to 4,000 people per square mile. Figure 9 indicates the population density in Pasco County.

Other areas that have shown significant growth in recent years are the south, central, and eastern portions in proximity to the I-75 corridor and the SR 54 and SR 56 interchanges. Pasco County is expected to maintain these same growth patterns into 2035 and 2050, with most of the population increasing along the “54/56 Gateway” corridor. The growth in populations contributes to new development of residential structures. According to the U.S. Census Bureau between 2019-2023 the average property value, more specifically the median value of owner-occupied housing units was \$265,800. The per capita income in 2023 dollars totaled \$37,757 according to the U.S. Census Bureau 2019-2023 data.

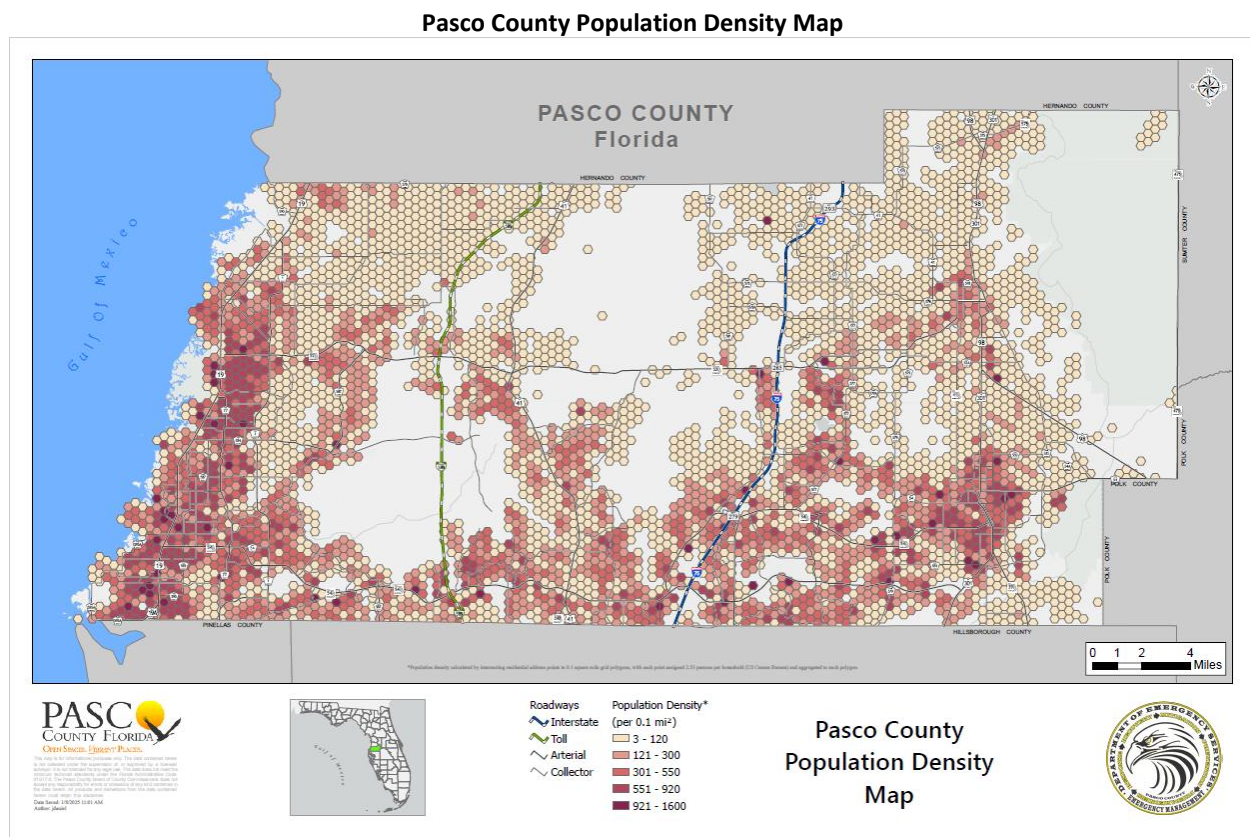


Figure 9 - Source: Pasco County GIS; Population Density

Inmate Population

In 2024, Pasco County Corrections reports a total inmate population of approximately 1,482 individuals housed within the county’s jail. This figure does not include around 79 inmates currently on ‘loan’ to other facilities due to overcrowding. In 2024, the Zephyrhills Corrections Institution and its satellite campus is current has a compacity of 626 inmates due ongoing construction in the facility but is housing around 574 inmates. Over the past 20 years (2005-

2024), the average daily inmate population has been 1,446. However, in 2024, the average number of inmates has risen to 1,530.

Pasco County Tourists and Transient Population

According to the Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing at the University of Florida, Pasco County had approximately 221 unaccompanied migrant and seasonal households in 2022. The Department of Health provided 221 beds within their permitted camps, leaving approximately 66 workers without shelter. Of those households that were accompanied migrant and seasonal, 0 were sheltered through Section 514/516 and Florida Housing-Assisted Multifamily Units; however, 221 were left unsheltered.

Seasonal residents accumulate within the Zephyrhills area and along the coastal areas of the Gulf of Mexico. Table 5 shows the housing vacancy status for Pasco County in 2022 and approximately 70% of the vacant properties owned are considered seasonal, recreational, or occasional use and the homeowner has permanent residence elsewhere.

Pasco County Housing Vacancy Status	
Subject	Total
Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasional Use	16,824
Vacant – Current Residence Elsewhere	555
Rental, For Sale Only, Rented or Sold, Not Occupied	6,658

Table 5 - Source: US Census Bureau 2022 Housing Data

Seasonal residents post a significant concern for post-disaster planning as they are also difficult to reach out to. Additionally, most seasonal residents visiting the region are 55-years of age or older, with the majority (75%) being 65 years or older – a highly vulnerable age group.

According to the FY 2024 report from Florida’s Sport Coast, Pasco County saw 1,471,500 visitors, reflecting a 1.4% decrease compared to FY 2023. The county’s peak tourist season runs from October to June. Of all visitors to Florida’s Sport Coast, 61% were female, and the average travel party size was 2.8 people.

In FY 2024, the most popular destinations within Pasco County were New Port Richey, Wesley Chapel, and Port Richey. New Port Richey attracted 43% of visitors, Wesley Chapel saw 35%, and Port Richey had 26%. Other favored spots included Spring Hill, Hudson, Aripeka, and Holiday. The western locations may be popular because of the proximity to beaches and water access to the Gulf Coast, proximity to Tarpon Springs in Pinellas, and major thoroughfare of U.S. 19. The popularity of the eastern locations may be related to I-75 corridor and major thoroughfare of U.S. 301, the tourist attractions in Wesley Chapel, and the close-proximity to the City of Tampa.

Pasco County Non-English-Speaking Population

Of the total population over 5 years old, the percentage that speaks only English was approximately 92.9% according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2023 American Community Survey 1-year estimates subject tables. About 12.2% of the population speaks Spanish, and of those, 4.89% speak English less than very well. Table 6 provides a breakdown of languages spoken at home in Pasco County.

Languages Spoken at Home		
Subject	Total	Percentage
Population 5 years and over		
Speak only English	478,888	79.5%
Speak a language other than English	123,440	20.5%
Speak Language Other Than English		
Spanish	73,524	12.2%
Other Indo-European Languages	26,560	4.4%
Asian and Pacific Island Languages	13,269	2.2%
Other Languages	10,087	1.7%

Table 6 – Source: U.S. Census 2023 ACS 1 Year Estimates

Homeless Populations

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations Report provides population counts of homeless individuals that are sheltered and unsheltered within Pasco County. According to the CoC report for 2024 within Pasco County, on any given day there were approximately 695 homeless individuals in Pasco County. The 2024 CoC report reveals that, on any given day, approximately 695 people experienced homelessness in Pasco County. Of this total, around 39% were sheltered, while approximately 61% were unsheltered. Males represent about 66% of the homeless population, and 90% of individuals experiencing homelessness have lived in Pasco County for more than 12 months. Veterans account for 9.5% of the homeless population, which equals 66 individuals. Pasco County Homeless Coalition Point in Time Count and By-Name List Data 2024 statistics:

- 695 persons were homeless on any given day in 2024
- 268 persons were housed in shelters
- 427 persons were unsheltered
- 81% were adults between the ages of 19 to 64
- 8% were elderly adults the age of 65 and over
- 11% were children the age 18 and under

The Pasco County Housing Authority manages six public housing complexes in the County. Of these, four are for families and two are for the elderly over the age of 62. Two of these complexes are in Lacoochee, one is in Dade City, and the remainder is in Bayonet Point or New Port Richey. In addition to these complexes, there are two Section 8 communities that are managed through

the housing authority – Dade Oaks in Dade City and Hudson Hills Manor in Hudson. There are an additional four complexes managed by the housing authority on behalf of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development. They are all located in northeast Pasco – two in Dade City and two in Lacoochee. One, Cypress Farms, is for those families that are migrant farm workers. Another, Dade Oaks, is for the disabled and handicapped elderly population.

Age 65 Years and Over

Almost 22 percent of the County’s population is of the age 65 and above, out of which 2% is above the age of 85. Moreover, the 65 years and above population has increased by 2% since 2010. Most of the 65 year and older population is concentrated along the western and south-eastern part of the County. Most of the minority low-income elderly are concentrated primarily in east Pasco, with the highest concentrations in Dade City, Lacoochee, and Trilby.

Disasters usually affect older people disproportionately. As mentioned in a Center for Disease Control (CDC) report, more than 70% of those who died as a result of Hurricane Katrina were elderly. Many of the 200 people who died as a result of the hurricane in Mississippi were also older adults. People over 65 years of age are specifically vulnerable due to both physical and financial reasons. The CDC explains that 80% of older adults have at least one chronic condition which makes them more vulnerable than younger, healthier adults. The combination of the stress related to the chronic condition mixed with additional stressors in a disaster emergency increases this age group’s risk of being negatively impacted by a disaster. The CDC explains that 75% of Americans over age 65 have two or more chronic conditions that stress the body, which exponentially increases with the additional stress of an impending disaster. In addition, according to the American Medical Association, there is a greater probability that seniors may be more susceptible to fraud and financial exploitation during times of crisis than other populations.

Pasco County Age Distribution				
Age	Population 2020	Percentage 2020	Estimated Population 2023	Estimated Percentage 2023
Under 5 years	27,904	5.2	30,668	4.8%
5 to 19 years	92,498	17.2	110,473	17.5%
20 to 34 years	87,507	16.2	105,089	16.5%
35 to 64 years	209,959	38.9	249,058	39.4%
65 years and above	122,017	22.7	137,708	21.8%

Table 7- Source: U.S. Census 2020 and 2023 American Community Survey estimates

Pasco County Special Needs Population

Approximately 17 percent of the county’s population above the age of five years has some form of disability. As of September 2024, 1,578 citizens were registered with the Pasco County SPNS Registry for evacuation transportation or shelter assistance through Pasco County Emergency

Management’s webpage portal or calling the office. Roughly 48% of the people registered are either in the hurricane evacuation areas (Level A through E) and roughly 21% are in mobile homes in the County. Approximately 3% of the persons registered require a level of medical care beyond what is offered in a Mass Shelter.

Pasco County Hearing Loss/Impairment Populations

According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2023 American Community Survey, the population between 18 and 64 with hearing difficulty has a county rate of 2.4%, a total of 365,094.

Disabilities by Age in Pasco County		
	Population by Age	Population Percentage-by-Age
Population under 5 years with a disability	324	1.06%
Population 5 to 17 years with a disability	6,231	6.40%
Population 18 to 64 years with a disability	48,854	13.38%
Population 65 years and over with a disability	46,421	34.35%
Population 5 years and over with a disability	101,506	16.99%

Table 8 - Source: 2023 American Community Survey Estimates; Pertinent Information Taken from Table S1810 – Disability Characteristics

Manufactured or Mobile Homes

According to the Pasco County Property Appraiser’s Office as of January 2025, there are 218 rental mobile home and recreational vehicle (RV) parks in Pasco County. Of these, 35 are in Dade City, 76 are in Zephyrhills, nine are in Wesley Chapel, and four are in San Antonio. On the west side of Pasco County, five are in Holiday, 30 are in Hudson, 25 are in New Port Richey, and 11 are in Port Richey. In the central part of Pasco County, there are a considerable number of parks; in Land O’ Lakes 12 parks exists, six are in Spring Hill, four are in Lutz, and one is in Odessa. Approximately 140,142 people reside in mobile homes across the County. Mobile homes constitute a sizeable portion of the affordable housing stock within Pasco County. It’s important to identify the distribution of these structures as they are most likely to sustain damage or to be declared uninhabitable in case of a disaster. In Pasco County, a good number of the mobile homes are located within high hazard zones. However, regardless of their location, during an evacuation, mobile homes are always categorized as mandatory evacuation zones.

Mobile Home Units within Evacuation Zones and Flood Zones		
Storm Surge/Flood Zone	Mobile Homes Within Mobile Home Parks	Mobile Homes Outside Mobile Home Parks
Flood Zone A	1,011	679
Flood Zone AE	5,906	2,070

Storm Surge/Flood Zone	Mobile Homes Within Mobile Home Parks	Mobile Homes Outside Mobile Home Parks
Flood Zone VE	5	2
Flood Zone X	32,255	13,464
Evacuation Zone A	5,306	937
Evacuation Zone B	3,499	447
Evacuation Zone C	3,028	1,219
Evacuation Zone D	1,196	1,279
Evacuation Zone E	285	615

Table 9 - Source: Pasco County GIS January 2025

ECONOMIC PROFILE

There are various types of industries that support the resilient economy of Pasco County. The Pasco County Comprehensive Plan provides a framework which aims to improve the quality of life and economic stability, while preserving the community's natural resources. The facilitation of economic growth supports the diversification and increases the community income and investment.

Employment

Small businesses are at greater risk of not recovering from a disaster. This is a key concern for Pasco County as many of the County's establishments are small businesses. The County Business Patterns show that the relationship between established locations to employee ratio in Table 10 is low. The majority of employee to total establishments is 50 or less employees. Additionally, the highest industry percentage falls under the Accommodation and Food Services, Retail and Trade, and Health Care, Social Assistance Categories, and Farmworkers. This industry percentage makes sense as the county has a higher percentage of elderly population with additional needs. The county continues to grow for both residents and visitors which may also explain the higher need for retail and other accommodations.

Employment Estimates by Type of Industry			
Employment Sector (NAICS code description)	Total Establishments	Employees	Percentage of Employees
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	24	66	0.06%
Utilities	29	1,257	1.07%
Construction	1,318	9,559	8.11%
Manufacturing	255	4,484	3.81%
Wholesale trade	384	3,641	3.09%
Retail trade	1,600	26,089	22.14%
Transportation and warehousing	335	2,746	2.33%
Information	160	1,253	1.06%
Finance and insurance	610	3,123	2.65%

Employment Sector (NAICS code description)	Total Establishments	Employees	Percentage of Employees
Real estate and rental and leasing	763	2,130	1.81%
Professional, scientific, and technical services	1,313	5,289	4.49%
Management of companies and enterprises	31	1,176	1.00%
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	875	6,949	5.90%
Educational Services	160	3,577	3.04%
Health care and social assistance	1,576	24,501	20.80%
Art, entertainment, and recreation	178	1,453	1.23%
Accommodation and food services	894	15,520	13.17%
Other services (except public administration)	1,037	4,985	4.23%
Industries not classified	10	5	0.00%
Total for all Sectors	11,554	117,819	

Table 10- Source: U.S. Census Bureau; 2022 County Business Patterns CB2200CBP

Major Employers

Pasco County Office of Economic Growth has identified major employers in Pasco County. The major employers include an array of retail trade, construction, professional, scientific and technical services, and healthcare and social assistance. The LMS highlights the leading categories of major employers based on the 2021 U.S. Census Bureau's County Business Patterns (CBP) survey. These major employers, categorized by business type, are further detailed by the number of establishments and employees.

A total of 112 employers, with a combined total of approximately 21,580 employees, work within Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) zones. Many of the major employers are hospitals, medical centers, rehab centers, major retail stores, home improvement stores, and markets. Understanding these businesses is critical in the recovery as they provide critical and essential goods to the residents of Pasco County and employment to the residents of Pasco County. By having the businesses located in the SFHA zones and Evacuation Zones, employers may be impacted by employee retention and building damage.

Now, the focus will shift to all employers in Pasco County. Identifying all employers located within high hazard areas and assessing the number of people employed by each will indicate how susceptible Pasco County's economy is to a large-scale disaster. To understand our economic vulnerability, employer distribution within the county was studied using data from the US Census Bureau. The employers' addresses were geocoded using GIS and hazard layers (flood zones and storm surge zones) were overlaid to ascertain the number of employers in each of the hazard zones. The analysis has determined that approximately 17.52% of our employers are located within the flood zones – A, AE, VE, and 9.53% annual flood (shaded X Zone) while 47.48% are

situated within an evacuation zone (A, B, C, D, or E). Table 11 outlines the number of employers by flood and evacuation zones.

Employers Within Storm Surge and Flood Zones	
Storm Surge/Flood Zone	Number of Employers
Flood Zone A	264
Flood Zone AE	2,188
Flood Zone VE	8
Flood Zone AH	2
Flood Zone X (Shaded)	1,339
Flood Zone X	10,244
Evacuation Zone A	1,978
Evacuation Zone B	1,669
Evacuation Zone C	1,321
Evacuation Zone D	1,197
Evacuation Zone E	504

Table 11 - Source: Pasco County GIS January 2025

Understanding the distribution of employees is equally important as identifying the distribution of employers within the county. Post-disaster, decisions related to distribution of employee assistance, provision of public transportation and other supporting services will have to take these factors into consideration.

Poverty Rates in Pasco County

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, approximately 35.3% of the population within Pasco County was in poverty. Table 12 provides supplemental information regarding the ages of population within Pasco County below the poverty level.

Below Poverty Level Broken Down by Age		
Age	Estimate	Percentage
Under 18 years	17,405	14.7%
Under 5 years	5,129	18.0%
Related children of householder under 18 years	16,856	14.3%
18 to 64 years	33,366	9.9%
60 years and over	18,647	11.1%
65 years and over	13,652	10.7%

Table 12- Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Emergency Management Support Facilities

Evacuation Zones and Routes

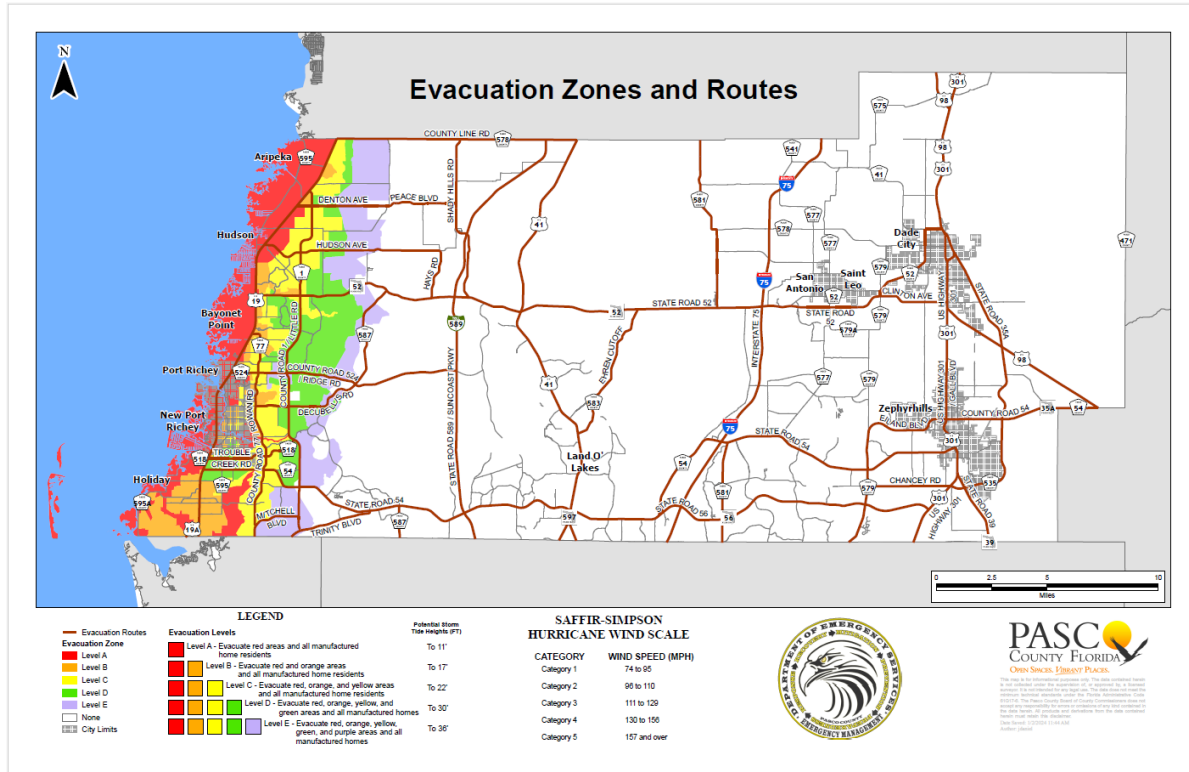


Figure 10- Source: Pasco County GIS

Evacuation Routes and Zones

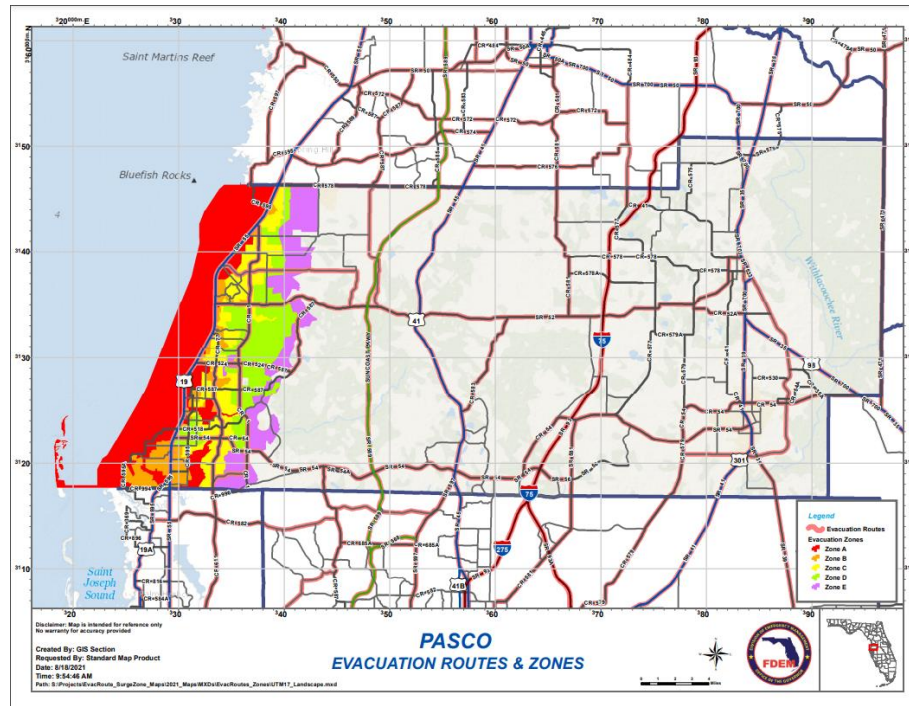


Figure 11- Source: FDEM GIS 2021

Pasco County Fire Stations

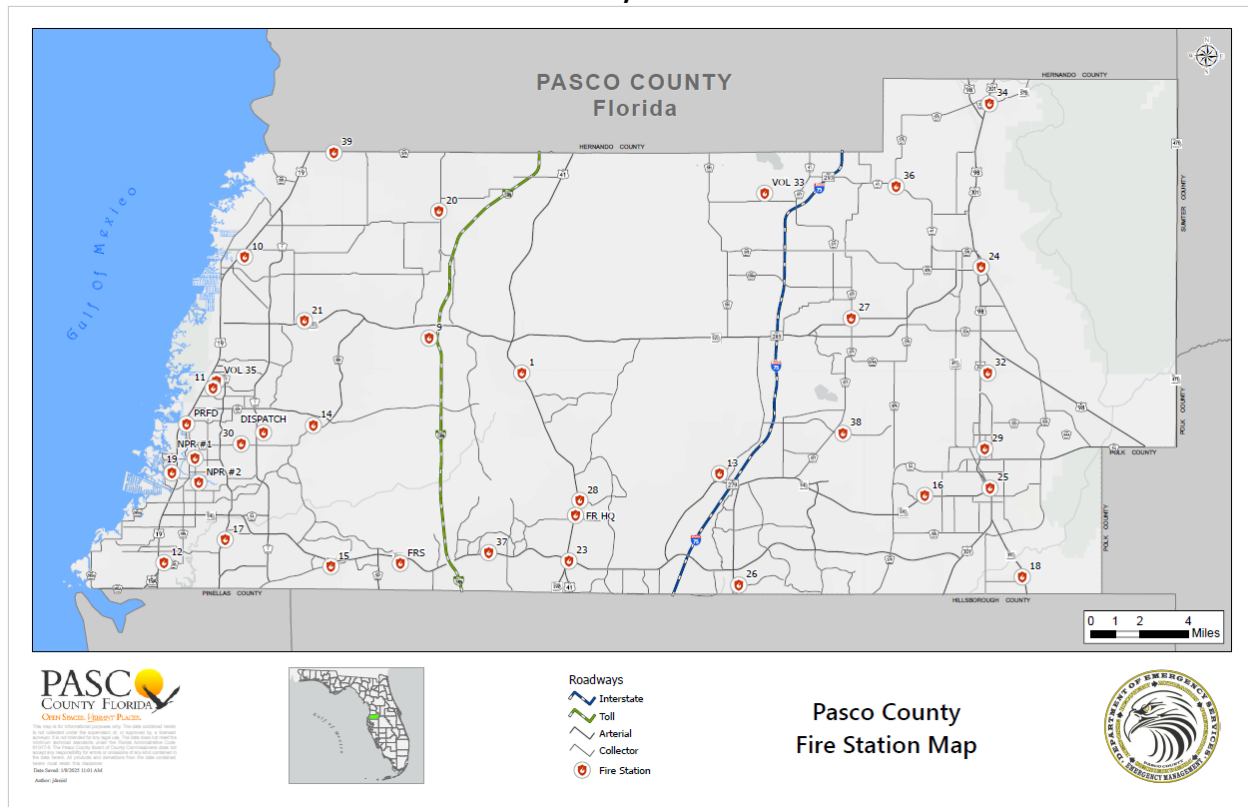


Figure 12- Pasco County GIS

County Point of Distribution (POD) Locations

POD Name	Address	Area	POD Type
Primary			
Veterans Memorial Park	1433 Hicks Rd, Hudson, FL 34669	West	POD-I
Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex	3032 Collier Pkwy, Land O' Lakes, FL 33545	Central	POD-I
John S. Burks Memorial Park	13220 Gene Nelson Blvd, Dade City, FL 33525	East	POD-I
Alternate			
Wesley Chapel District Park	7727 Boyette Rd, Wesley Chapel, FL 33545	Central	POD-II
Crews Lake Wilderness Park	16739 Crews Lake Dr, Spring Hill, FL 34610	West	POD-I
Contingent			
W.H. Jack Mitchell Park	4825 Little Rd, New Port Richey, FL 34655	West	POD-I

POD Name	Address	Area	POD Type
Odessa Community Park	1627 Chesapeake Dr, Odessa, FL 33556	Central	POD-I
Emergent			
Samuel W Pasco Recreation Center	39835 Chancey Rd, Zephyrhills, FL 33542	East	POD-II
Stanley Park	38724 Mudcat Grant Blvd, Lacoochee FL 33537	East	POD-III
J. Ben Harrill Recreation Complex	2830 Gulf Trace Blvd, Holiday, FL 34691	West	POD-I

Table 13- Source: Pasco County Point of Distribution (POD) Interagency Coordinating Procedure (ICP) Plan

Hospital, Urgent Care and Standalone ER Facility's in Pasco County

Facility Name	Facility Type	Location
Advent Health Connerton	Hospital	Land O' Lakes
Advent Health Dade City	Hospital	Dade City
Advent Health Wesley Chapel	Hospital	Wesley Chapel
Advent Health Zephyrhills	Hospital	Zephyrhills
Medical Center of Trinity	Hospital	Trinity
Medical Center of Trinity West Pasco Campus	Hospital	Trinity
Morton Plant North Bay Hospital	Hospital	New Port Richey
Morton Plant North Bay Hospital Recovery Center	Hospital	Lutz
North Tampa Behavioral Health Hospital	Hospital	Wesley Chapel
HCA Florida Bayonet Point Hospital	Hospital	Hudson
Starkey Ranch ER & Hospital	Hospital	Odessa
Advent Health Centra Care Wesley Chapel	Urgent Care	Wesley Chapel
Advent Health Centra Care Trinity	Urgent Care	Odessa
BayCare Urgent Care (New Port Richey)	Urgent Care	New Port Richey
BayCare Urgent Care (Land O' Lakes)	Urgent Care	Land O' Lakes
BayCare Urgent Care (Trinity East)	Urgent Care	New Port Richey
Care One of Florida	Urgent Care	Port Richey
Family Medical Center of Port Richey	Urgent Care	Port Richey
MD Now Urgent Care - Holiday	Urgent Care	Holiday
MD Now Urgent Care - Odessa Trinity	Urgent Care	Odessa
MD Now Urgent Care - Hudson	Urgent Care	Hudson
Suncoast Urgent Care	Urgent Care	Spring Hill
After Hours Pediatrics Urgent Care - New Port Richey	Urgent Care	New Port Richey
Advent Health Primary Care+ Walgreens, New Port Richey	Urgent Care	New Port Richey
Advent Health Primary Care+ at Walgreens, Land O Lakes	Urgent Care	Land O' Lakes
Your Family Walk-In Clinic	Urgent Care	Lutz
TGH Urgent Care powered by Fast Track (Trinity at Starkey Ranch)	Urgent Care	Odessa
TGH Urgent Care powered by Fast Track (Sunlake - Lutz)	Urgent Care	Lutz
Urgent Care of New Port Richey	Urgent Care	New Port Richey

Facility Name	Facility Type	Location
MyUrgentCare	Urgent Care	New Port Richey
Primary Care Walk in Clinic	Urgent Care	New Port Richey
Family Medicine - Florida Medical Clinic Orlando Health	Urgent Care	Land O' Lakes
Florida Medical Clinic Orlando Health – Urgent Care	Urgent Care	Wesley Chapel
Florida Medical Clinic Orlando Health – Urgent Care	Urgent Care	Zephyrhills
Lifetime Family Urgent Care	Urgent Care	Wesley Chapel
Family Express Urgent Care	Urgent Care	Land O' Lakes
Advent Health Central Pasco ER	Standalone ER	Lutz
HCA Florida Lutz Emergency	Standalone ER	Lutz

Table 14

Logistics Staging Areas (LSA) / County Staging Areas (CSA) and Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC)		
Staging Area Name	Address	City
Public Works West Maintenance Yard -LSA/CSA	15413 Shady Hills Rd, Spring Hill, FL 34610	Spring Hills
Embassy Warehouse -LSA/CSA	9518 Crabtree Ln, Port Richey, FL 34668	New Port Richey
Osteen Warehouse -LSA/CSA	7220 Osteen Rd, New Port Richey, FL 34653	New Port Richey
County Fleet Maintenance -LSA/CSA	7578 State St, New Port Richey, FL 34654	New Port Richey
Dade City Fairgrounds -DRC	36722 State Rd 52 Dade City, FL 33525	Dade City
Centennial Library -DRC	5740 Moog Rd, Holiday, FL 34690	Holiday
Hudson Regional Library -DRC	8012 Library Rd, Hudson, FL 34667	Hudson
Hugh Embry Library -DRC	14215 4th St, Dade City, FL 33523	Dade City
New River Library -DRC	34043 FL-54, Wesley Chapel, FL 33543	Wesley Chapel
Land O'Lakes Library -DRC	2818 Collier Pkwy, Land O' Lakes, FL 34639	Land O' Lakes
Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex -DRC	3032 Collier Pkwy, Land O' Lakes, FL 34639	Land O' Lakes

Staging Area Name	Address	City
UF/IFAS Pasco Extension Stalling Building -DRC	15029 14th St, Dade City, FL 33523	Dade City
Veterans Memorial Park Center -DRC	14333 Hicks Rd, Hudson, FL 34669	Hudson

Table 15

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

On February 28, 2003, the President issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5, which directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS). According to HSPD-5:

“This system will provide a consistent nationwide approach for federal, state, and local governments to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity. To provide for interoperability and compatibility among federal, state, and local capabilities, the NIMS will include a core set of concepts, principles, terminology, and technologies covering the incident command system; multi-agency coordination systems; unified command; training; identification and management of resources (including systems for classifying types of resources); qualifications and certification; and the collection, tracking, and reporting of incident information and incident resources.”

Pasco County utilizes NIMS concepts in the implementation of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

While most incidents are generally handled daily by a single jurisdiction at the local level, there are important instances in which successful incident management operations depend on the involvement of multiple jurisdictions, functional agencies, and emergency responder disciplines. These instances require effective and efficient coordination across this broad spectrum of organizations and activities. NIMS uses a systems approach to integrate the best of existing processes and methods into a unified national framework for incident management. This framework forms the basis for interoperability and compatibility that, in turn, enables a diverse set of public and private organizations to conduct well-integrated and effective incident management operations. It does this through a core set of concepts, principles, procedures, organizational processes, terminology, and standards requirements applicable to a broad community of NIMS users.

To provide this framework for interoperability and compatibility, NIMS is based on an appropriate balance of flexibility and standardization. NIMS provides a consistent, flexible, and adjustable national framework within which government and private entities at all levels can

work together to manage domestic incidents, regardless of their cause, size, location, or complexity. This flexibility applies across all phases of incident management: prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. NIMS also provides a set of standardized organizational structures such as the ICS, multi-agency coordination systems (MACS) and public information systems as well as requirements for processes, procedures and systems designed to improve interoperability among jurisdictions and disciplines in various areas, including: training; resource management; personnel qualification and certification; equipment certification; communications and information management; technology support; and continuous system improvement.

NIMS integrates existing best practices into a consistent, nationwide approach to incident management that is applicable at all jurisdictional levels and across functional disciplines in an all-hazards context. Six major components make up this systems approach. A brief synopsis of each major component of the NIMS is provided, as well as how these components work together as a system to provide the national framework for preparing for, preventing, responding to, and recovering from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity. A more detailed discussion of each component can be found in a variety of sources, particularly the NIMS Integration Center.

Command and Management: NIMS standard incident command structures are based on three key organizational systems, found in Table 16 below.

Organizational Systems	
	Description
Incident Command System (ICS)	Defines the operating characteristics, interactive management components, and structure of incident management and emergency response organizations engaged throughout the life cycle of an incident
Multi-agency Coordination System (MACS)	Define the operating characteristics, interactive management components, and organization structure of supporting incident management entities engaged at the federal, state, local, and regional levels through mutual-aid agreements and other assistance agreements.
Public Information Systems	Refers to processes, procedures, and systems for communicating timely and accurate information to the public during crisis or emergency situations.

Table 16

Preparedness

Effective incident management begins with a host of preparedness activities conducted on a steady-state basis, well in advance of any potential incident. Preparedness involves an integrated combination of planning, training, exercises, personnel qualification and certification standards,

equipment acquisition and certification standards, and publication management processes and activities.

Components of Preparedness

	Description
Planning	Plans describe how personnel, equipment, and other resources are used to support incident management and emergency response activities. Plans provide mechanisms and systems for setting priorities, integrating multiple entities and functions, and ensuring that communications and other systems are available and integrated in support of a full spectrum of incident management requirements.
Training	Training includes standard courses on multi-agency incident command and management, organizational structure, and operational procedures; discipline-specific and agency-specific incident management courses; and courses on the integration and use of supporting technologies.
Exercises	Incident management organizations and personnel must participate in realistic exercises – including multidisciplinary, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-sector interaction – to improve integration and interoperability and optimize resource utilization during incident operations.
Qualification and Certifications	Qualification and certification activities are undertaken to identify and publish national-level standards and measure performance against these standards to ensure that incident management and emergency responder personnel are appropriately qualified and officially certified to perform NIMS-related functions.
Equipment Acquisition and Certification	Incident management organizations and emergency responders at all levels rely on various types of equipment to perform mission essential tasks. A critical component of operational preparedness is the acquisition of equipment that will perform to certain standards, including the capability to be interoperable with similar equipment used by other jurisdictions.
Publication Management	Publications management refers to forms and forms standardization, developing publication materials, administering publications – including establishing naming and numbering conventions, managing the publication and promulgation of documents, and exercising control over sensitive documents – and revising publications when necessary.

Table 17

Resource Management

NIMS defines standardized mechanisms and establishes requirements for processes to describe, inventory, mobilize, dispatch, track, and recover resources over the life cycle of an incident. PCDEM implements the Resources Management ICP to perform this function.

Communications and Information Management

NIMS identifies the requirement for a standardized framework for communications, information management (collection, analysis, and dissemination), and information-sharing at all levels of incident management. These elements are briefly described below:

Element Description	
Description	
Incident Management Communications	Incident management organizations must ensure that effective, interoperable communications processes, procedures, and systems exist to support a wide variety of incident management activities across agencies and jurisdictions.
Information Management	Information management processes, procedures, and systems help ensure that all information, including communications and data, flows efficiently through a commonly accepted architecture supporting numerous agencies and jurisdictions responsible for managing or directing domestic incidents, those impacted by the incident, and those contributing resources to the incident management effort. Effective information management enhances incident management and response and helps ensure that crisis decision-making is better informed.

Table 18

Supporting Technologies

Technology and technological systems provide supporting capabilities essential to implementing and continuously refining NIMS. These include voice and data communications systems, information management systems (i.e., recordkeeping and resource tracking), and data display systems. Also included are specialized technologies that facilitate ongoing operations and incident management activities in situations that call for unique technology-based capabilities. For more information, refer to the Emergency Communications ICP.

Ongoing Management and Maintenance

This component establishes an activity to provide strategic direction for and oversight of NIMS, supporting both routine review and the continuous refinement of the system and its component over the long term.

The ICS is a management system designed to enable effective and efficient domestic incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure, designed to enable effective and efficient incident management. A basic premise of ICS is that it is widely applicable. It is used to organize both near-term and long-term field-level operations for a broad spectrum of emergencies, from small to complex incidents, both natural and manmade. ICS is used by all levels of government – federal, state, and local – as well as by many private sector and

nongovernmental organizations. ICS is also applicable across disciplines. It is normally structured to facilitate activities in six major functional areas: command, operations, planning, logistics, and finance and administration. Acts of biological, chemical, radiological, and nuclear terrorism represent challenges for the traditional ICS structure. Events that are not site specific, are geographically dispersed, or evolve over longer periods of time will require extraordinary coordination between federal, state, local, private-sector, and non-governmental organizations (NGO). An area command may be established to oversee the management of such incidents.

CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES

Most Incidents are Managed Locally

The initial response to most incidents is typically handled by local “9-1-1” dispatch centers, emergency responders within a single jurisdiction, and direct supporters of emergency responders. Most responses need to go no further. In other instances, incidents that begin with a single response discipline within a single jurisdiction may rapidly expand to multidisciplinary, multi-jurisdictional incidents requiring significant additional resources and operational support. Whether for incidents in which additional resources are required or are provided from different organizations within a single jurisdiction or outside the jurisdiction, or for complex incidents with national-level implications (such as an emerging infectious disease or a bioterrorism event), the ICS provides a flexible core mechanism for coordinated and collaborative incident management. When a single incident covers a large geographical area, multiple local ICS organizations may be required. Effective cross-jurisdictional coordination using processes and systems described in NIMS is critical in this instance.

NIMS requires that field command and management functions be performed in accordance with a standard set of ICS organizations, doctrine, and procedures. However, Incident Commanders generally retain the flexibility to modify procedures or organizational structure to align as necessary with the operating characteristics of their specific jurisdictions or to accomplish the mission in the context of a hazard scenario.

ICS is Modular and Scalable

ICS is designed to have the following operating characteristics:

- Suitable for operations within a single jurisdiction or single agency, a single jurisdiction with multi-agency involvement, or multiple jurisdictions with multi-agency involvement.
- Applicable and acceptable to users throughout the country.
- Readily adaptable to new technology.
- Adaptable to any emergency or incident to which domestic incident management agencies would be expected to respond.
- Have a scalable organizational structure that is based on the size and complexity of the incident.

ICS Establishes Common Terminology

Common terminology includes a standard set of pre-designated organizational elements and functions, common names for resources used to support incident operations, common typing for resources to reflect specific capabilities, and common identifiers for facilities and operational locations used to support incident operations. These standards and procedures enable diverse organizations to work together effectively.

ICS establishes common terminology that allows diverse incident management and support entities to work together across a wide variety of incident management functions and hazard scenarios. By using common terminology, ICS helps to reduce confusion and miscommunication among responders from different agencies, organizations, and jurisdictions. This ensures that everyone involved in an incident response understands key terms and functions in the same way, facilitating smooth coordination and efficient resource allocation. Common terminology also ensures that incident command and operations are clearly defined, so that personnel know their roles and responsibilities, and resources are deployed on their specific capabilities and needs.

Additionally, ICS emphasizes the importance of standardized systems and procedures, which streamline incident management and ensure that information is shared quickly and accurately across various teams and agencies. Common terminology is crucial for minimizing confusion, preventing redundant efforts, and ultimately enhancing the overall effectiveness of the response. This common terminology covers the following:

Common Terminology	
	Description
Organizational Functions	Major functions and functional units with domestic incident management responsibilities are named and defined. Terminology for the organizational elements involved is standard and consistent.
Resource Descriptions	Major resources – including personnel, facilities, and major equipment and supply items – used to support incident management activities are given common names and are “typed” with respect to their capabilities, to help avoid confusion and to enhance interoperability.
Incident Facilities	Common terminology is used to designate the facilities in the vicinity of the incident area that will be used during incident management activities

Table 19

Management by Objectives

Management by objectives represents an approach that is communicated throughout the entire ICS organization. This approach includes the following:

- Establishing overarching objectives.
- Developing and issuing assignments, plans, procedures, and protocols.

- Establishing specific, measurable objectives for various incident management functional activities, and directing efforts to attain them, in support of defined strategic objectives.
- Documenting results to measure performance and facilitate corrective action.

Comprehensive Resource Management

Maintaining an accurate and up-to-date picture of resource utilization is a critical component of domestic incident management. Resource management includes processes for categorizing, ordering, dispatching, tracking, and recovering resources. It also includes processes for reimbursement for resources, as appropriate. Resources are defined as personnel, teams, equipment, supplies, and facilities available or potentially available for assignment or allocation in support of incident management and emergency response activities. Procedural details for resource management can be found in the Resources Management ICP within the Resources Unit Leader Position Specific Guide.

Integrated Communications

Incident communications are facilitated through the development and use of a common communications plan and interoperable communications processes and architectures. This integrated approach links the operational and support units of the various agencies and is necessary to maintain communications connectivity and discipline to enable common situational awareness and interaction. Preparedness planning must address the equipment, systems, and protocols necessary to achieve integrated voice and data incident management communications. Pasco County addresses integrated communications in their Tactical Interoperable Communications ICP.

Chain of Command/Unity of Command

Chain of command refers to the orderly line of authority within the ranks of the incident management organization. Unity of command means that every individual has a designated supervisor to whom they report at the scene of the incident. These principles clarify reporting relationships and eliminate the confusion caused by multiple, conflicting directives. Incident managers at all levels must be able to control the actions of all personnel under their supervision.

Unified Command

In incidents involving multiple jurisdictions, a single jurisdiction with multi-agency involvement, or multiple jurisdictions with multi-agency involvement, UC allows agencies with different legal, geographic, and functional authorities and responsibilities to work together effectively without affecting individual agency authority, responsibility, or accountability.

Information and Intelligence Management

The incident management organization must establish a process for gathering, sharing, and managing incident-related information and intelligence. Additional, more detailed information on the incident command system can be found in a variety of sources, particularly the NIMS Integration Center and the National Interagency Coordination Center.

STRUCTURE

Non-Emergency Organization of Pasco County – Inclusive of Its Six Municipalities

Pasco County is governed by five elected Commissioners and an appointed County Administrator. The Administrator has executive powers to implement the policies and procedures set forth by the Board of County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners is the legislative and policy-making body of county government. The five members of the Board are elected county-wide from districts. The Board appoints the County Administrator and the County Attorney and confirms the appointment of department heads. The Board establishes policy and makes all budget decisions regarding appropriation of funds to county departments, divisions, and some Constitutional Officers.

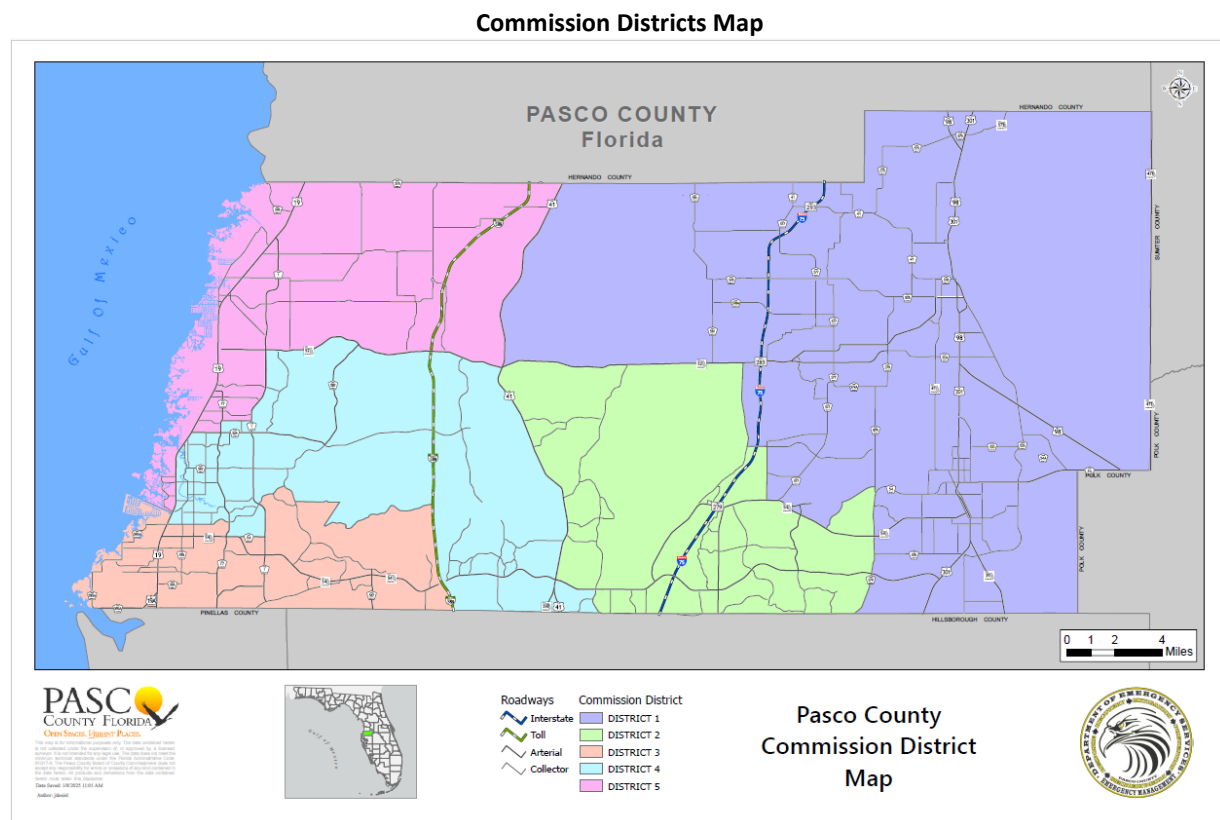


Figure 15 – Source: Pasco County GIS January 2025

Pasco County Organizational Chart



Figure 16

PCDEM Organizational Chart

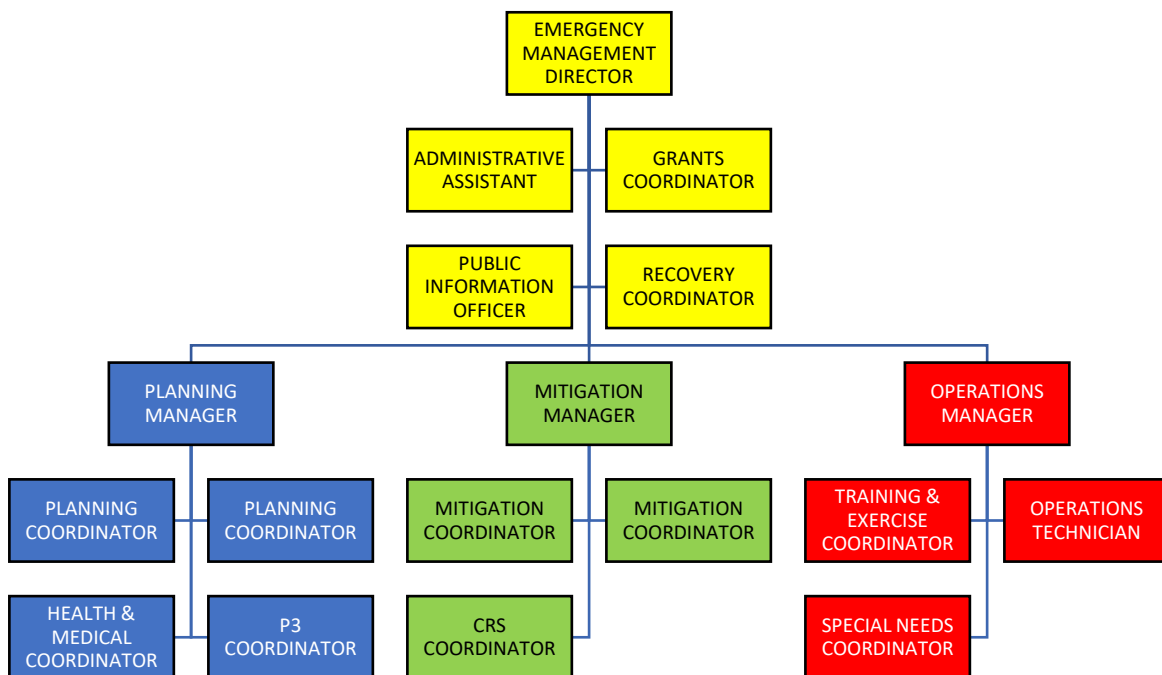


Figure 17

The **City of Dade City** is an incorporated municipality and a political subdivision of the State of Florida. The legislative branch of the city government is composed of five Commissioners elected at-large including a mayor who is elected by the City Commission. City Commissioners are elected for staggered four-year terms of office. Under the provisions of the adopted City Charter, Dade City operates under the City Commission-City Manager form of government and is recognized by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The City Manager is authorized by the City Charter to act as the chief administrative officer of the city. In this capacity, the City Manager is responsible for supervising all departments and divisions of the City except for the City Clerk/Finance Officer and the City Attorney who report directly to the City Commission.

The **City of New Port Richey** operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The City Council consists of a mayor and four Council members. As representatives of the People, the Council makes laws and sets the policies that govern the City and provide for the welfare of its citizens. The City Manager works closely with the Mayor and Council assisting them in formulating objectives, policies, and programs. The City Manager is responsible for the efficient day-to-day operations of all city programs.

The **City of Port Richey**, a Florida Municipal Corporation, has the governmental, corporate, and proprietary powers to enable it to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions and render municipal services and to exercise any power for municipal purposes except when expressly prohibited by law. There is a City Council composed of five members elected by the qualified voters of the city at large. One member is elected as Mayor and the balance is elected as City Council members. The mayor is the official head of the city. The City Council appoints a City Manager. The City Manager is the chief administrative officer of the city, responsible to the Council for the administration of all City affairs placed in the Manager's charge.

The government and corporate authority of the **City of San Antonio** (Florida) is composed of a city commission of five members. The commission elects, from among its members, officers of the city who shall have the titles of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore . The mayor presides at meetings of the commission and shall be recognized as head of the city government for all purposes. The Mayor Pro Tempore acts as the mayor during the absence or disability of the mayor. The mayor is the chief executive officer, and as such, has all executive authority granted by Charter or by law. The City Clerk is the immediate supervisor of all other employees of the city.

The **City of Zephyrhills** vests the governance and municipal authority of the city in a Mayor, a City Council composed of five members, a City Manager, a Chief of Police,, and other boards and officers as may be designated or created by ordinance. The City Council has the power to create other offices as they deem necessary to provide for filling the same by appointment or election,

and to abolish at any time any office so created by them. The city has all powers possible for a city to have under the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida as fully and completely as though they were specifically enumerated in Chapter 11.11 of the Charter of Zephyrhills, Florida.

The **Town of St. Leo** is composed of a town commission consisting of five members who are electors of the town, elected by the voters of the town. The commission elects, from among its members, a mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore. The Mayor is the chief executive officer of the town and presides at meetings of the commission. During the absence or disability of the Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tempore performs the duties of the office of the Mayor. The commission is responsible for the supervision and direction of all departments, agencies, or offices administered by an officer appointed by and subject to the direction and supervision of the commission.

Pasco County Emergency Organization Coordination – Inclusive of Its Six Municipalities

Coordination between municipal, county, state, and federal agencies which occur because of the establishment of relationships during the preparedness phase, is enhanced by the use of common operating platforms during response (e.g., interoperable communication devices, information sharing networks, use of the Incident Command System), and is assured by the formal recognition of and respectful treatment towards jurisdictional liaisons throughout all phases.

Incident Commanders have standing authorities as described within their job descriptions, standard operating guidelines, general orders, or other agency-specific documents. Further, these authorities can be temporarily expanded by their agency administrator (AA) through a delegation of authority formally recognized by the Executive Policy Group.

EOC staff members are responsible for establishing and supporting protocols and systems to promote information sharing between the field personnel, the private sector, neighboring jurisdictions, and the state and federal government to establish full situation awareness related to emergency operations. EOC staff support the field personnel by securing and allocating requested resources, interfacing with outside agencies and the media to fully leverage a broad range of capabilities, gaining policy level support for action plans, and establishing mechanisms to sustain the workforce. An EOC Coordinator is assigned responsibility for facilitating the EOC staff's actions.

At the field level, command of the incident is variable depending on the hazard type and the conditions through time; however, those Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) always provide overall tactical leadership for the incident.

The Pasco County EOC is managed using the Incident Command System/Emergency Operations Center (ICS/EOC) interface. Within the EOC setting, the ICS Command and General Staff positions are filled by agency and jurisdictional representatives based on the demands of the incident itself. The ICS is a mechanism that consolidates multiple agencies performing similar or like functions into a single, cohesive unit to allow for better management of emergency operations.

Executive Policy Group (EPG)

The Executive Policy Group takes such action as determining the timing of the issuance of a Local State of Emergency, evacuation orders, curfews, and authorizing the dissemination of public protective measure recommendations. The EPG acts in support of elected officials, the County Administrator, the EOC staff, and field personnel by resolving conflicts within the political, financial, inter-jurisdictional, legal, and other administrative framework.

The EPG is composed of the County Administrator, the County Attorney, the Pasco County Sheriff, the Pasco County Health Department Director, the Superintendent of the District School Board of Pasco County, and the Director of the Department of Emergency Management. In an incident fully contained within or significantly affecting a municipal jurisdiction, the City Manager(s), the City Clerk, and/or the City Attorney hold an essential role within the Executive Policy Group. The EPG may grow to include representatives of agencies having hazard-specific expertise and/or a legal requirement to act in a lead capacity. For example, in the event of a large wildfire incident, local fire chiefs and the Florida Forest Service become assets to the decision-making process inherent to the Executive Policy Group. Additionally, the Public Services Assistant County Administrator (ACA), Development Services ACA, Internal Services ACA, and/or the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) may be included in the Executive Policy Group, at the direction of the County Administrator. State and federal representatives such as the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR), the State Coordinating Officer (SCO), and the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) are accommodated and incorporated as appropriate.

The organizational structure represented in Figure 18 applies to all hazards and are meant to illustrate a full-scale activation organizational structure possible. For small-to-moderate scale incidents and events, the overall organizational model would be reduced in size and/or complexity to gain efficiency and effectiveness. Hazard-specific model organization charges are found within their associated coordinating procedures and incident-specific plans which are separate from, but related to, this document.

Pasco County Emergency Operations Center Organizational Chart

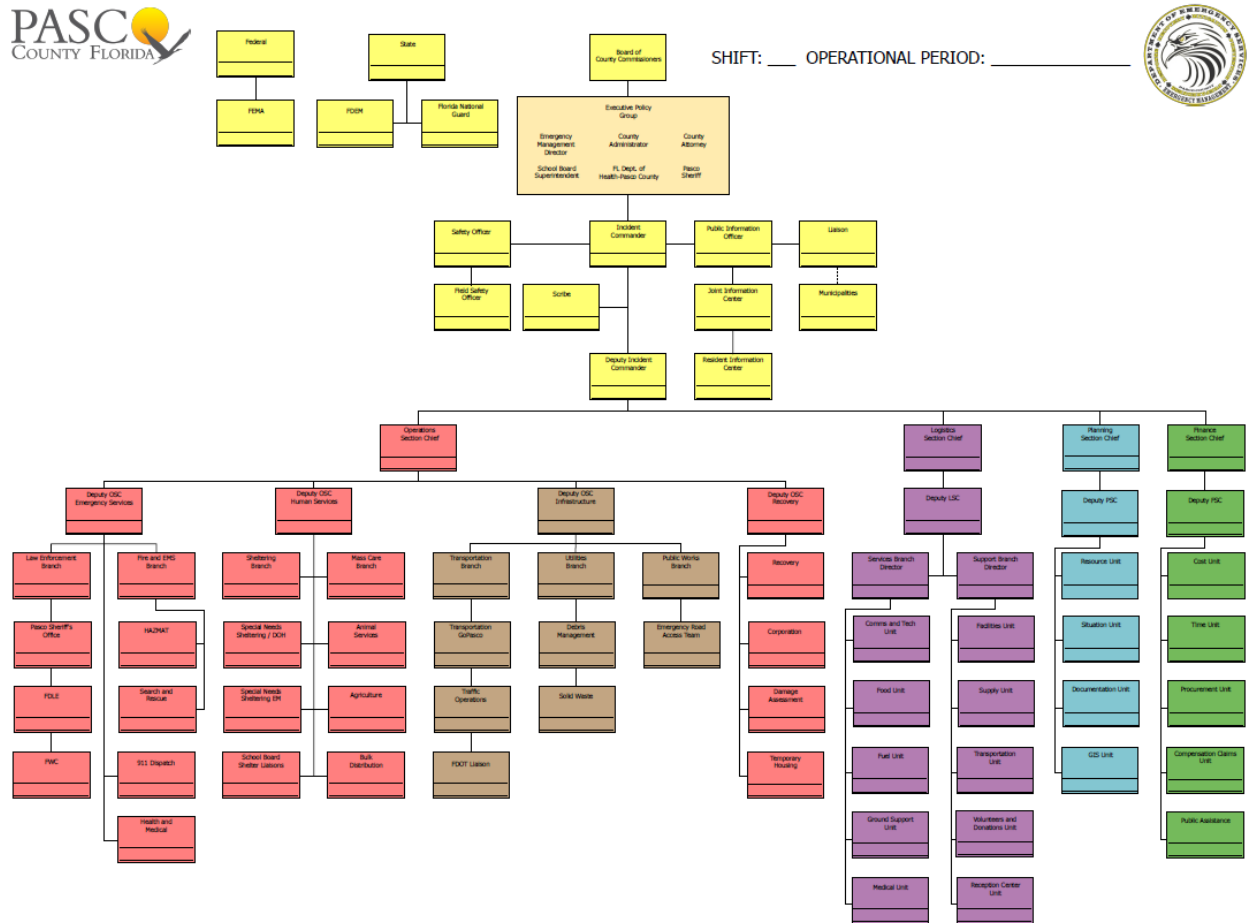


Figure 18

Pasco County Emergency Operations Center Activation Levels

The Emergency Operations Center can be activated to three levels, depending on the nature of the disaster. The County Administrator, through the Director of Emergency Management, shall designate what level of activation is required in response to a given situation, and shall ensure all steps for notification and operation are completed for that level of activation:

- **Level 3 – Monitoring:** Level 3 is typically a monitoring phase. Notification will be made to those agencies and branches/groups/units that would need to act as part of their everyday responsibilities. This activation will typically involve only the Department of Emergency Management staff. This level is established to perform regular situation analysis functions utilizing the best information available for decision-making purposes.
- **Level 2 – Partial:** All primary branches/groups/units are notified. Department of Emergency Management personnel and the necessary branches/groups/units will staff the EOC. This includes the staff listed above and representatives of those branches/groups/units, Pasco County or city agencies, EOC units, or individuals as may be designated by the Director of Emergency Management as required to address an

emergency. The Director of Emergency Management may activate portions of this plan in preparation of an anticipated major disaster, such as a hurricane or tropical storm.

- **Level 1 – Full:** 24-hour staffing of the Emergency Operations Center. All lead and assisting agencies are notified. Requires the involvement of the entire local emergency response organization and should result in the full activation of each unit of the EOC.

Responsibilities of the County Administrator

Chapter 30 of the Pasco County Ordinance Code outlines specific responsibilities that apply to the County Administrator during a local state of emergency (LSE). The County Administrator is responsible for meeting the dangers presented to Pasco County and its people by a disaster. The County administrator or his/her designee shall have the authority, without further board action, to take emergency measures as he/she deems appropriate to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

Lead Agencies

As required by 27P-6.0023 (FAC), the CEMP assigns lead and support/assisting responsibilities for agencies and personnel that coordinate with the emergency support functions (ESF) outlined in the State CEMP. The lead agencies are designated because they either have a statutory responsibility to perform that function, or through its programmatic or regulatory responsibilities, the agency may have developed the necessary expertise to lead the group or unit.

In some agencies, a portion of the agency's mission is very similar to the mission of the group/unit; therefore, the skills to respond in a disaster can be immediately translated from the daily business of that agency.

The lead agency has the responsibility of coordinating all existing agencies to ensure that missions are accomplished, and resources are maximized. The lead agencies report to their respective branch director or section chief. All lead agency staff must fulfill both administrative and operational responsibilities to ensure proper coordination among all assisting agencies. The operational responsibilities of each lead and assisting agency are outlined in the specific ICPs.

Administrative responsibilities for lead agency staff include the following:

- Staff the EOC upon activation and ensure 24-hour staffing coverage based on the level of activation.
- Maintain a roster of all assisting agency contact persons, make necessary notifications to activate assisting agencies as necessary, and maintain ongoing communications to support mission assignments.
- Maintain a listing of all available resources.

- Develop, maintain, and review assisting agency ICPs/PSGs to allow for the efficient and effective implementation of the group/unit mission.
- Prioritize missions in coordination with the EOC based on life safety and protection of property and in accordance with the IAP.
- Once local resource capabilities have been exhausted, coordinate mutual aid and private vendor resource needs to requesting parties within the county, through the proper resource request procedure. Documentation shall be maintained for operational accountability and for purposes of financial reimbursement.
- Coordinate for the provision of all mutual aid resources to requesting parties outside of the county in accordance with appropriate resource request procedures and based on available assets.
- Documentation shall be maintained for operational accountability and for purposes of financial reimbursement.
- Train all staff responsible for implementing the plan, including assisting agency staff, on ICPs and PSGs.

Assisting Role or Agency

An assisting agency has the following responsibilities:

- Provide appropriate personnel, equipment, facilities, technical assistance, and other support as required, to assist the lead agency in accomplishing the goals, objectives, and missions assigned.
- Provide technical and subject-matter expertise, data, advice, and support staff for operations that fall within the domain of the respective agency.
- Assist the lead agency in staffing the EOC, as needed.
- Maintain and review applicable ICPs and PSGs to allow for the efficient and effective implementation of the group/unit missions.

PASCO COUNTY EOC FUNCTIONS

Command Staff

A group of incident personnel that the Incident Commander or Unified Command assigns to support the command function at an ICP. Command staff often include a Public Information Officer (PIO), a Safety Officer, and a Liaison Officer, who may have assistants as necessary.

Incident Commander: The Incident Commander (IC) is a member of the Command Staff and, this role is usually filled by the Emergency Management Director. The IC has overall responsibility for management of the incident, including the development of strategies and tactics and the ordering and releasing of resources. The IC is responsible for incident operations and management. The IC may have a deputy IC, either from their agency or an assisting agency.

Liaison Officer: The Liaison Officer (LNO) is a member of the Command Staff, and this position is usually filled when incidents are multi-jurisdictional or involve several agencies. The LNO is the contact for representatives from all agencies assigned to the incident and is responsible for maintaining a roster of assisting agencies and their representative and establishing and coordinating interagency contacts and communications so that all agencies involved in the incident are kept informed. The military support personnel deployed to the EOC liaises with the National Guard in the field. The LNO participates in the Planning Meetings and provides updates on assisting agencies to include resources, limitations, etc.

Safety Officer: The Safety Officer (SO) is a member of the Command Staff and is responsible for developing and recommending measures for assuring personnel safety. The Safety Officer participates in the planning meetings, reviews the Incident Action Plan (IAP) for safety implications, and reviews and approves the safety/medical plan. The SO has the authority, along with the IC, to suspend any activity that poses a threat to life safety. Only one SO will be assigned for each incident; however, depending upon the size and scope of the incident, the SO may have assistants as necessary.

Public Information Officer: The PIO is a member of the Command Staff and is responsible for developing and releasing information about the incident to the media, incident personnel, and appropriate agencies/organizations. The PIO will obtain the Incident Commander's approval for all media releases that are disseminated pertaining to the incident. Only one PIO is assigned to an incident; however, the PIO may have assistants as necessary.

General Staff

A group of incident personnel organized according to function and reporting to the Incident Commander or Unified Command. The ICS General Staff consists of the Operations Section Chief (OSC), Planning Section Chief (PSC), Logistics Section Chief (LSC), and Finance/Administration Section Chief (FSC).

EOC FUNCTIONS

Functional Branch/Groups/Units

The EOC Works as a multiagency coordination center and is a process that allows all levels of government and all disciplines to work together more efficiently and effectively. In the EOC, multiagency coordination occurs across the different disciplines involved, across jurisdictional lines, or across levels of government.

Operations Section Overview

The Operations Section is responsible for command, control, and coordination of all response elements applied to the incident, regardless of the hazard. The Operations Section carries out

the objectives of the IAP and requests additional resources as needed. To maintain effective span of control, the Operations Section is organized into the following four deputy sections:

- Deputy Operations Section Chief – Emergency Services
- Deputy Operations Section Chief – Human Services
- Deputy Operations Section Chief – Infrastructure
- Deputy Operations Section Chief – Recovery

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Coordinate support for field operations.
- Establish response priorities in conjunction with the County Administrator, Executive Policy Group, and Emergency Management Director.
- Ensure cross-functional communications and coordination.
- Ensure effective resource sharing between responding agencies.
- Establish and coordinate situation management activities.
- Coordinate response activities with state and federal agencies.

The following units may be established within the Emergency Services Branch:

Firefighting Branch: Pasco County Fire Rescue (PCFR) is the lead agency for the Fire Branch and shall coordinate all fire, EMS, and search and rescue operations within the unincorporated areas of Pasco County and assist neighboring communities if called upon. PCFR will complete and maintain status reports for major incidents, implement the objectives of the IAP assigned to the Fire Branch, and assist and serve as an advisor to the Deputy Operations Section Chief – Emergency Services, as required.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Fire Rescue (PCFR)

Assisting Agencies: City of New Port Richey Fire Department
City of Port Richey Fire Department

HazMat Branch: Pasco County Fire Rescue (PCFR) is the lead agency for the HazMat Branch and shall coordinate all hazardous material response operations within the unincorporated areas of Pasco County. PCFR will complete and maintain status reports for major incidents, implement the objectives of the IAP assigned to the HazMat Branch.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Fire Rescue (PCFR)

Assisting Agencies: Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
U.S. Coast Guard
Florida Department of Health – Pasco County (FDOH – Pasco)
Pasco Sheriff's Office (PSO)

Health and Medical Branch: The Health and Medical Branch is responsible for coordinating the provision of medical, mental, and public health care for residents and visitors of Pasco County. This includes providing accurate information on where individuals may receive appropriate care. Responsibilities include:

- Minimize loss of life, subsequent disability, and human suffering by ensuring timely and coordinated medical and public health assistance.
- Coordinate activities of medical care facilities and the procurement, allocation, and distribution of medical personnel, supplies, communications, and other resources.
- Provide a system for receipt and dissemination of health-related information required for effective response and recovery from a major disaster.
- Assist in the implementation of public health actions ordered.
- Coordinate with the PIO to inform the public of health precautions or health-related safety instructions for the general public.
- Coordinate and prioritize requests for health services support from local responders and obtain medical/health personnel, supplies, and equipment through mutual aid or requests for state or federal support.
- Complete and maintain status reports for major incidents and implement the objectives of the IAP assigned to the Health and Medical Branch.

Lead Agency: Florida Department of Health – Pasco County (FDOH – Pasco)

Assisting Agencies: Pasco County Fire Rescue (PCFR)
Area hospitals
Department of Veteran’s Affairs
Medical Examiner’s Office
Funeral Directors (Fatality Management)

Law Enforcement Branch: The Law Enforcement Branch commands, controls, and coordinates law enforcement resources and activities. The Pasco Sheriff’s Office shall serve as the lead agency for the Law Enforcement Branch and is responsible for linking the EOC to law enforcement agencies (state and federal) and appropriate dispatch centers. The Law Enforcement Branch Director will complete and maintain status reports for major incidents, implement the objectives of the IAP assigned to the Law Enforcement Branch, and assist and serve as an advisor to the Deputy Operations Section Chief – Emergency Services, as required.

Lead Agency: Pasco Sheriff’s Office

Assisting Agencies: Dade City Police Department
New Port Richey Police Department
Port Richey Police Department
Zephyrhills Police Department

Florida Highway Patrol (FHP)
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Veteran's Affairs Police Department

Sheltering Branch: The Sheltering Branch is responsible for coordinating the provision of basic temporary shelter for the residents, special needs clients, and visitors of Pasco County. This includes refuge from severe weather or a disaster event and immediate (short-term) post-disaster sheltering.

- The Sheltering Branch shall determine the operational status of all facilities listed as potential shelters, to include, but not limited to:
 - Access for people with disabilities.
 - Adequate sanitation facilities.
 - Capacity for cooking and serving food.
 - Housing capacity.
 - Structural soundness.
 - Utility services.

Shelters that also serve as Pet-Friendly Sheltering (PFS) are responsible for the care, welfare, and control of animals during a declared incident or disaster. The Sheltering Branch will complete and maintain status reports for major issues and incidents and implement the objectives of the IAP assigned to the Sheltering Branch.

Lead Agency: District School Board of Pasco County
Assisting Agencies: Pasco Sheriff's Office (PSO)
Pasco County Human Resources
Pasco County Animal Services
Florida Department of Health – Pasco County (DOH – Pasco)
Pasco County Community Services
American Red Cross (ARC)
Coalition for the Homeless of Pasco County
Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
Auxiliary Communications Services (ACS)

Bulk Distribution Branch: The Bulk Distribution Branch is responsible for coordinating the distribution of basic supplies to the residents of Pasco County through Points of Distribution (PODS). The Bulk Distribution Branch will complete and maintain status reports for major issues or incidents and implement the objectives of the IAP assigned to the Bulk Distribution Branch.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Department

Assisting Agencies: ARC, Mid-Florida Chapter
United Way of Northeast Florida
Pasco County Human Services Department

Mass Care Branch: The Mass Care Branch is responsible for providing basic human services, including food, potable water, and other necessities to persons impacted by a disaster. The Mass Care Branch also provides a central disaster registration and inquiry service to reunite families and response to outside welfare inquiries. The Mass Care Branch collaborates closely with other agencies within the Operations Section – Human Services to ensure close coordination and support for their mass care activities. Responsibilities include:

- Ensuring effective integration of voluntary mass care activities.
- Estimating the number of people who will require mass care services (i.e., feeding, clothing, distribution of relief supplies, etc.).
- Ensuring that mass care service delivery programs are designed to address the needs of all segments of the affected population, including people with special needs.
- Coordinating the provision of shelters, feeding, and disaster welfare inquiries.
- Assisting the ARC with inquiries and registration services to reunite families or respond to inquiries from other relatives.
- Ensuring that physical and mental health services are available at shelters and other mass care service delivery sites.
- Coordinating the collection and distribution of mass care service delivery statistics.

Lead Agency: ARC, Mid-Florida Chapter
Assisting Agencies: Florida Department of Health – Pasco County (DOH – Pasco)
District School Board of Pasco County (Shelter Sites)
Pasco County Human Services Department
Pasco County Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources Department
Pasco Sheriff's Office (PSO) (for the security mission)
Pasco County Public Transportation (PCPT)
Salvation Army
Auxiliary Communications Services (ACS)

Animal/Agricultural Branch: The Animal/Agricultural Branch is responsible for coordinating the provision of care, veterinary services, welfare, and control of animals during a declared incident or disaster. These responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

- Search and rescue.
- Food and water.
- Immunization and disease control.
- Lost animal care.

- Pet-friendly sheltering.
- Security and quarantine.
- Veterinary services.

Additionally, the Animal/Agricultural Branch will complete and maintain status reports for major issues or incidents and implement the objectives of the IAP assigned to the Animal/Agricultural Branch.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Animal Services
Assisting Agencies: Pasco Animal Response Team (PART)
Pasco County Veterinarians
Volunteer Animal Protection Group

Public Works Branch: The Public Works Branch supports county agencies and municipalities in response/recovery operations, including providing support to various operational units such as fire and law enforcement, county-wide damage assessment of structures and infrastructure, route recovery, debris removal, debris volume assessment, building safety inspections, and demolitions. Additionally, the Public Works Branch will complete and maintain status reports for major issues or incidents and implement the objectives of the IAP assigned to the Public Works Branch.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Public Works Department
Assisting Agencies: Pasco County Department of Emergency Management
Pasco County Engineering Services Department
Pasco County Public Infrastructure Department
Pasco County Traffic Operations
Pasco Sheriff's Office (PSO)
Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

Utilities Branch: The Utilities Branch plans for and coordinates necessary actions to facilitate the restoration of energy, potable water, and sewer systems following a disaster. The Pasco County Utility Department is the lead agency for the Utilities Branch and is responsible for coordinating all utility restoration-related activities, tracking the restoration of said utilities, providing support for field operations including effective coordination with other response elements, pro-active exchange of information, and coordination of external resource support. Additionally, the Utilities Branch will complete and maintain status reports for major issues or incidents and implement the objectives of the IAP assigned to the Utilities Branch.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Utility Department
Assisting Agencies: Pasco County Public Works Department

Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC)
Tampa Electric Company (TECO)
Sumter Electric
Duke Energy

Transportation Branch: The Transportation Branch provides overall coordination of transportation assistance to county departments, other governmental and private agencies, and other requiring transportation assistance in disaster situations. The Transportation Branch coordinates the designation and restoration of services on critical transportation routes within Pasco County, including the coordination of general traffic and access control programs.

Other responsibilities include:

- Coordinating the response operations targeted at restoring and maintaining normal operations of public transportation systems.
- Designating critical transportation routes.
- Route recovery.
- Supporting evacuation transportation planning.
- Providing backup transportation for survivors.
- Providing transportation for emergency workers during recall operations.
- Completing and maintaining status reports for major issues or incidents and implementing the objectives of the IAP assigned to the Transportation Branch.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Public Transportation (GOPASCO)
Assisting Agencies: Pasco County Department of Emergency Management
Pasco Sheriff's Office (PSO)
Pasco County Fire Rescue (PCFR)
Private transportation companies/vendors

Corporate Recovery Branch: The Corporate Recovery Branch plans for the flow of information between government emergency management agencies, private corporations, and business groups in order to facilitate corporate evacuations, re-entries, and recovery; provides education and training to corporate employees; coordinates the flow of private relief and recovery resources into impacted areas; and identifies potential sources of relief and recovery materials and supplies available through the private sector. Additionally, the Corporate Recovery Branch will complete and maintain status reports for major issues or incidents and implement the objectives of the IAP assigned to the Corporate Recovery Branch.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Office of Economic Growth
Assisting Agencies: Pasco County Department of Emergency Management

Private Sector participants

Temporary Housing Branch: The Temporary Housing Branch is responsible for coordinating temporary housing for residents of Pasco County displaced by a disaster. The Temporary Housing Branch will work closely with state, federal, and local agencies to expedite any necessary processes to establish alternate long-term housing options for displaced residents. Additionally, the Temporary Housing Branch will complete and maintain status reports for major issues or incidents and implement the objectives of the IAP assigned to the Temporary Housing Branch.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Community Services
Assisting Agencies: Pasco County Real Property & Planning
United Way of Pasco County
Salvation Army

Damage Assessment Branch: The Damage Assessment Branch is responsible for coordinating damage assessment-related activities, including effective coordination with other response elements, pro-active exchange of information and effective and efficient collection and dissemination of damage information.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Department of Emergency Management
Assisting Agencies: Pasco County Building Construction Services
Pasco County Public Works Department
Pasco County Fire Rescue
Pasco County Property Appraiser's Office
Pasco County Code Compliance

Logistics Section Overview

The Logistics Section is responsible for planning and executing the acquisition and movement of supplies, equipment, and personnel and providing facilities in support of the response to an incident. The Logistics Section is also responsible for tracking the status of resource requests from placement to fulfillment. To maintain an effective span of control, the Logistics Section is organized into the following two branches: Services Branch and Support Branch.

The Logistics Section is responsible for the following:

- Identify potential sources of resources, including vendors, partner agencies, and other jurisdictions through mutual aid.
- Procure, track, and arrange for the delivery of materials and/or equipment required to support response efforts.
- Track the status of resource requests, including requests forwarded to state and federal agencies through WebEOC.

- Identify, acquire, renovate, and provide logistical services for facilities required to support the incident response.
- Support the establishment of material/equipment warehousing, distribution centers, and staging areas when directed.
- Coordinate the acquisition of supplementary staff through use of temporary staffing agencies, community volunteers, mutual aid agreements, and/or other available sources.
- Coordinate the logistical support services for the EOC.

Logistics is the one section which is administered through several ICPs, one for each function under the Branch due to the complexity and organizational requirement under each ICP.

Food Unit: The Food Unit provides feeding services for disaster response workers. The Food Unit determines food and water requirements, plans menus, orders food, provides cooking facilities and cooks, services and maintains food service areas, and manages food safety and security concerns. Additionally, the Food Unit will complete and maintain status reports for any major issues or incidents and implement the objectives of the IAP assigned to the Food Unit.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Facilities Management
Assisting Agencies: Pasco County Purchasing Department
Pasco County Office of Management & Budget (OMB)

Ground Support Unit: The Ground Support Unit provides transportation in support of incident operations, maintains and repairs primary equipment, vehicles (excluding aircraft), and mobile ground support equipment, records usage time for all ground equipment (including contract equipment) assigned to the incident, and supplies fuel for all equipment. Additionally, the Ground Support Unit also maintains a transportation pool for major incidents; this pool consists of vehicles that are suitable for transporting personnel. The Ground Support Unit also provides up-to-date information on the locations and status of transportation vehicles to the Resources Unit.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Fleet Management
Assisting Agency: None

Fuel Unit: The Fuel Unit will be responsible for receiving, tracking, storing, and distributing fuel for all mobile equipment/vehicles, generators, ground support equipment, and facilities utilized in the disaster response. The Fuel Unit will work closely with the Ground Support Unit. Additionally, the Fuel Unit will complete and maintain status reports for major issues or incidents and implement the objectives of the IAP assigned to the Fuel Unit.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Fleet Management

Assisting Agencies: Pasco County Department of Emergency Management

Facilities Unit: The Facilities Unit will be responsible for monitoring and management of all publicly owned buildings and real estate. Additionally, the Facilities Unit will track all property being utilized by Pasco County and all properties that may be needed for incident operations, complete and maintain status reports for major issues or incidents and implement the objectives of the IAP assigned to the Facilities Unit.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Facilities Management

Assisting Agencies: Pasco County Department of Emergency Management
Pasco Sheriff's Office (PSO)

Volunteer & Donations Management Unit: Pasco County does not accept unsolicited donations during normal, non-emergency operations. In the event of the declaration of a Local State of Emergency, the Operations Section Chief may activate the Volunteer & Donations Management Unit, which will be responsible for the management, receipt, tracking, storing, and distribution of solicited and unsolicited donated goods as well as volunteers and their equipment and supplies. Additionally, the Volunteers & Donations Management Unit will complete and maintain status reports for major issues or incidents and implement the objectives of the IAP assigned to the Volunteer & Donations Management Unit.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Human Resources Department

Assisting Agencies: Pasco County Department of Emergency Management
United Way of Pasco County
Salvation Army

Communications Unit: The Communications Unit develops the Communications Plan (ICS 205) that is consistent with the Tactical Interoperable Communications ICP to make the most effective use of communications equipment and facilities. Additionally, the Communications Unit will complete and maintain status reports for major issues or incidents and implement the objectives of the IAP assigned to the Communications Unit.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Information & Technology Department

Assisting Agencies: Pasco County Department of Emergency Management
Pasco Sheriff's Office (PSO)
Pasco County Fire Rescue (PCFR)
Auxiliary Communications Services (ACS)

Supply Unit: The Supply Unit will be responsible for ordering, receiving, tracking, storing, and distributing any commodity necessary in support of the response to a disaster. Additionally, the

Supply Unit will complete and maintain status reports for major issues or incidents and implement the objectives of the IAP assigned to the Supply Unit.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Purchasing Department

Assisting Agency: None

Planning Section Overview

The Planning Section's primary responsibility is to collect, analyze, verify, display, and disseminate incident information. This includes impact information, response activities, details regarding the field operating environment and the status of available resources. This Section functions as the primary support for response decision-making to the overall emergency organization, including preparing situation briefings, map displays, anticipatory appraisals, and developing plans necessary to cope with changing field events. During the incident response, the Planning Section Chief provides situational advice to help guide operational decision-making. This section is also responsible for facilitating the incident action planning process and the development of the IAP, Recovery Plans, and the After-Action Report. The Planning Section ensures that safety/damage assessment information is compiled, assembled, and reported in an expeditious manner. The Planning Section (*Documentation Unit*) is also responsible for the detailed recording of the entire response effort and the preservation of those records during and following the disaster.

Documentation Unit: The Documentation Unit maintains accurate and complete incident files, including a complete record of the major steps taken to resolve the incident, provides duplication services to incident personnel, and files, maintains, and stores incident files for legal, analytical, and historical purposes. Documentation is part of the Planning Section because this unit prepares the IAP and maintains many of the files and records that are developed as part of the overall IAP and planning function.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Department of Emergency Management

Assisting Agencies: Pasco County Planning and Development

Resources Unit: The Resources Unit is responsible for maintaining the status of all assigned resources (primary and support) assigned by the IAP for the disaster/incident. This is achieved by proactive collaboration with the County Staging Area, the Supply Unit, and other components of the Logistics Section, maintaining a status-keeping system, and maintenance of a master list of all resources once an incident begins.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Department of Emergency Management

Assisting Agencies: Pasco County Planning and Development

Situation Unit: The Situation Unit collects, processes, and organizes ongoing situation information, prepares situation summaries, and develops projections and forecasts of future events related to the incident. The Situation Unit also prepares maps and gathers and disseminates information and intelligence for use in the IAP. This unit may also require the expertise of technical specialists, operations, and information security specialists.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Department of Emergency Management

Assisting Agencies: Pasco County Planning and Development

GIS Unit: The Geographic Information System (GIS) Unit supports the operations of the EOC by creating and maintaining maps and photographs using Pasco County's GIS system and other mapping/photographic systems. The GIS Unit catalogs all products so that they are easily retrievable. Finally, the GIS Unit, with direction from the Planning Section Chief, establishes procedures for prioritizing mapping requests.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Information Technology Department, GIS Section

Assisting Agency: Pasco County Department of Emergency Management

Finance Section Overview

The Finance Section has five major responsibilities:

- Provides policy guidance and establishes procedures to authorize the commitment and payment of funds. Provides recommendations and guidance to and receives direction from the Executive Policy Group (EPG) on county-wide financial matters.
- Coordinates the accounting for personnel time during emergency response and recovery efforts and ensures that employees continue to receive pay, health insurance, and retirement benefits.
- Tracks and processes payments of vendor purchase orders, contracts, claims, and other payments during the emergency.
- Ensures that an accurate accounting of the cost of responding to the emergency (including both response and recovery) is maintained. This includes accounting for personnel time, cost of services provided, and for acquiring and maintaining response facilities, materials, and equipment.
- Ensures the management and direction of all administrative matters pertaining to compensation for injuries and claims-related activities for an incident.
- Implements the objectives of the EOC IAP assigned to the Finance/Administration Section.

Time Unit: The Time Unit is primarily responsible for ensuring proper daily recording of personnel time, in accordance with the policies of the relevant agencies.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Fiscal Services

Assisting Agency: Pasco County Office of Management and Budget

Cost Unit: The Cost Unit provides cost analysis data for the incident. This unit must ensure that equipment and personnel for which payment is required are properly identified, obtain, and record all cost data, and analyze and prepare estimates of incident costs. The Cost Unit also provides input on cost estimates for resource use to the Planning Section. The Cost Unit must maintain accurate information on the actual costs of all assigned resources.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Fiscal Services

Assisting Agency: Pasco County Office of Management and Budget

Compensation and Claims Unit: The Compensation/Claims Unit ensures that all forms required by Workers' Compensation programs and local agencies are completed. The Compensation/Claims Unit also maintains files on injuries and illnesses that are associated with the incident and ensures that all witness statements are obtained in writing. The Compensation/Claims Unit maintains logs on the claims, obtains written witness statements, documents investigations, and agency follow-up requirements.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Fiscal Services

Assisting Agency: Pasco County Human Resources

Procurement Unit: The Procurement Unit administers all financial matters pertaining to vendor contracts. The Procurement Unit coordinates with local jurisdictions to identify sources for equipment, prepares and signs equipment rental agreements, and processes all administrative requirements associated with equipment rental and supply contracts.

Lead Agency: Pasco County Purchasing Department

Assisting Agency: Pasco County Fiscal Services

Response Phase

The response phase is entered upon formal activation of the EOC. Pasco County's initial response activities are primarily structured to minimize the effects of the emergency or disaster. This includes protection of human life and property; examples of initial response activities undertaken by the EOC include:

- Disseminating warnings and emergency public information and instructions to residents.
- Making all necessary notifications to county departments and personnel and to the State, as needed.
- Documenting situation status.
- Declaring a Local State of Emergency (LSE).
- Coordinating evacuations and rescue operations.

- Coordinating the care of displaced persons and treating the injured.
- Clearing priority transportation routes.
- Repairing critical facilities and structures.
- Conducting initial damage assessments and surveys.
- Assessing the need for mutual aid assistance.
- Coordinating the restriction of traffic, people movement, and unnecessary access to affected areas.
- Developing and implementing IAPs.

As response activities continue, the EOC activities involve the coordination and management of personnel and resources to further mitigate the disaster/emergency and facilitate the transition to recovery operations:

- Preparing detailed damage assessments.
- Coordinating the operation of mass care facilities.
- Coordinating mass fatality operations.
- Procuring required resources to sustain operations.
- Protecting, controlling, and allocating vital resources.
- Coordinating restoration of vital utility services.
- Tracking resource allocation.
- Conducting advance planning activities.
- Documenting expenditures.
- Developing and implementing action plans for extended operations.
- Disseminating emergency public information.
- Coordinating with national, state, and local volunteer agencies.
- Recovery planning.

WARNING AND PUBLIC NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

County Warning Point

The County Warning Point (CWP) of Pasco County is responsible for the continuous monitoring and evaluation of those conditions which threaten or impact public safety. A variety of systems enable the staff of the CWP, which is housed in the Pasco County Department of Emergency Services (PCDES-911), to see, hear, and receive warnings from field personnel, neighboring jurisdictions, the State Watch Office (SWO), the National Weather Service (NWS), the federal government, the media, citizens, and visitors to Pasco County. The PCDES-911 is staffed 24-hours a day by Pasco County Public Safety Communications personnel and Pasco Sheriff's Office (PSO) personnel for receipt of fire/EMS service and law enforcement emergency calls as well as the dispatch of associated personnel.

The PCDES communications staff has specific responsibility for the warning point function; however, the PSO communications staff acts in a support capacity if necessary. The CWP adheres to established protocols related to notification of high-ranking officials within their agency, notification to the PCDEM, notification to surrounding jurisdictions, and notification to support agencies such as Road and Bridge and Utilities (power, water).

PCDEM supplements the CWP's monitoring of threat conditions Monday through Friday during normal business hours by means of a complement of the same systems housed in the CWP. PCDEM staff routinely evaluate threats and risks to provide recommendations regarding the need to activate functional components of an expanded emergency response system, to include Incident Management Teams (IMTs), the EOC, the EPG, and/or regional and state resources.

Two dispatch centers reside within Pasco County, including the primary County Warning Point (Pasco County Department of Emergency Services) and City of Port Richey. All county and municipal public safety-related agencies are reliant on the functionality of the 800 MHz trunked radio system. Interoperability among these public safety agencies and regional/state agencies is accomplished through the FIN.

One back-up/reserve dispatch center exist in Pasco County and is located on the first floor of the Pasco Technology Center, 38283 McDonald Street, Dade City Florida 33525.

FEMA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

The IPAWS is FEMA's national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency and life-saving information to the public through mobile phones using Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), to radio and television via the Emergency Alert System (EAS), and on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Weather Radio. IPAWS also incorporates the Public Broadcasting Service – Warning, Alert & Response Network (PBS WARN) as a WEA backup for broadcasting public alerts. PCDEM performs a monthly test of IPAWS through the Everbridge web-based community notification system.

National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Weather Radios

This system provides continuous broadcasts of meteorological conditions affecting the Tampa Bay Area. Broadcasts through this system are initiated by the NWS. Local protective action bulletins can be broadcasted on the system through the NWS Ruskin, FL location at the request of Emergency Management. A complete listing of NOAA weather radio tower locations and frequencies is maintained by PCDEM.

WEB-BASED COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS (PUBLIC WARNING SYSTEMS)

Everbridge

Pasco County utilizes the Everbridge system as the primary alert, warning, and notification system for county wide notifications and critical incident management for first responder agencies. The Alert Pasco organization in Everbridge manages a contact list with various tools for alert notifications to include notification templates of various events and incidents, GIS layers library with Flood Zones and Evacuation Zones, and reporting data for each notification transmitted. The NWS also broadcasts through Everbridge on impending severe weather conditions posing a potential impact to the county and individual areas.

Social Media Platforms

Pasco County publishes approved messaging on to include public notifications and information on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and Nextdoor. The interactive information sharing applications of these platforms allows users to send messages to subscribers. The programs can be accessed through the internet and messages can be forwarded to subscribers through various methods of SMS message, email, and to social media platform applications.

TELEVISION

Cable Override

Cable television is a system of providing television to customer via radio frequency signals transmitted to televisions through fixed optical fibers or coaxial cables, as opposed to the over-the-air method used in traditional television broadcasting (via radio waves) in which a television antenna is required. FM radio programming, high-speed internet, telephony, and similar non-television services may also be provided. Within the EOC Public Information workspace, the Public Affairs Officer may override cable television broadcast of the local government access channel (Spectrum 622) to provide residents with emergency information. Instructions to engage the override system are contained in the PIO SOP binder located in the Public Information/Warning Point Office.

Satellite Phones

Pasco County Department of Emergency Management has eight satellite phones. These devices operate on the Skybase Network. Throughout the year, these devices are maintained in a stand-by mode and must be activated prior to use. Activation information is contained in each of the satellite phone cases.

Other departments and agencies with satellite phones are:

- Pasco Sheriff's Office
- City of Dade City
- City of New Port Richey

- City of Port Richey (operating on Globstar)
- City of Zephyrhills
- DOH – Pasco (two operating on Skybase and three operating on Globstar)
- Pasco County Tax Collector’s Office

Video Conferencing Systems and Services

Microsoft Teams is a business communication platform that offers workspace chat and videoconferencing, file storage, and application integration. It is part of the Microsoft 365 family of products. Teams is the hub for teamwork and collaboration in an organization, allowing users to create teams and channels for different projects and topics. Teams also enables instant messaging, audio and video calling, online meetings, and mobile experiences.

Data Systems/County Information Sharing Systems - Networks

The Pasco County Information Technology (IT) Department provides three categories of IT-based services to the BCC and other constitutional agencies residing within the jurisdictional boundaries of Pasco County, Florida.

Infrastructure, Data Center, and Business Applications

The county’s data network infrastructure includes private and public (internet) segment. Both wired and wireless technologies are utilized within the private network segment. The wired portion of the private network services over 80 locations and almost 1,100 desktop computers, primarily on a fiber backbone. Microwave based point-to-point backhaul services across the county represent the primary use of the private wireless portion of the network.

Public data network segments provide remote access to production applications and services utilizing numerous technologies: internet, 5G, Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA), Wi – FI, and broadband internet connection. Security measures are in place at public/private connection points.

Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) are commonly used in conjunction with the county’s other security measures (firewalls, Demilitarized zones, and anti-virus and anti-spam filters) to ensure secured remote access of production applications and services.

Two data centers on opposite sides of the county facilitate the virtual, real-time replication of data from the primary data center to the recovery data center for business continuity purposes (reference the Pasco County Critical Facility Inventory for exact locations). Recovery of production applications and services varies, depending on the priority of the interrupted application(s) and/or service(s). The highest priority (hot site) provides for restoration of service within a matter of minutes. Hot site examples include the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) application and the exchange mail service.

State Communications Systems

The state incorporates web-based communication application systems to convey warnings to continental United States federal, state, and local governments, as well as military and civilian populations. These agencies and field offices are authenticated with IPAWS approved applications for communications and notifications.

SATCOM is a statewide, satellite-based communications system with the ability to transmit voice, high speed data, facsimile, and video communications throughout the network. Besides the terminals located in the 67 counties, the system is in all the NWS offices, the National Hurricane Center, and the primary EAS radio stations. EM-SATCOM devices are located within the EOC and the PCDES.

WebEOC is a web-based incident management system provided by the State Division of Emergency Management to all county governments to support logistical requests during incident management. The system also provides a forum in which collaboration and incident information sharing exists throughout the state.

Over 150 production applications and services are distributed among three computing platforms – AS/400, mainframe, and server. Production support activities are primarily delivered via the Help Desk, Operations and Communications sections.

The county IT Department provides business application development and maintenance for all BCC divisions, and for the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) that is used by PSO, Court Administration, Clerk of the Circuit Court, State Attorney, and Public Defender. Production business applications and services are a mix of private sector purchased and internally developed solutions. Mission-critical public safety applications that reside on the AS/400 include CAD for PCFR and PSO reporting. Numerous land/location-based applications that reside on the mainframe include the Permitting, Code Compliance, Property Tax, and Tax Collection systems. Examples of business applications on the server platform include GIS, GPS/AVL, records imaging, and Web Portal. Key among the server-based production services is email, internet, intranet, office suite, remote access, and file and print sharing.

Interoperable Systems

The Florida Interoperability Network (FIN) is an internet protocol-based application to allow different government agencies and/or first responders (such as law enforcement and fire rescue) to communicate within and across departmental and jurisdictional boundaries.

PREPAREDNESS

Effective incident management begins with a host of preparedness activities conducted on a “blue skies” basis, well in advance of any potential incident. Preparedness involves an integrated combination of planning, training, exercises, personnel qualification and certification standards, equipment acquisition and certification standards, and publication management processes and activities.

PLANNING

Planning describes how personnel, equipment, and other resources are used to support incident management and emergency response activities. Plans provide mechanisms and systems for setting priorities, integrating multiple entities and functions, and ensuring that communications and other systems are available and integrated in support of a full spectrum of incident management requirements.

The PCDEM Planning Manager is responsible for the development and maintenance of the CEMP and ensuring that the necessary revisions to the plan are prepared, coordinated, published, and distributed under the authority of the PCDEM Director.

Each department head is responsible for the preservation of vital records deemed essential for continuing government functions and conducting post-disaster operations. Every department across the county is tasked with maintaining its Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), which contains procedures for identifying and maintaining vital records.

Qualification and Certification

Qualification and certification activities are undertaken to identify and publish national-level standards and measure performance against these standards to ensure that incident management and emergency responder personnel are appropriately qualified and officially certified to perform NIMS-related functions. Staff that will be assigned to the EOC during an activation are encouraged to meet minimum training standards and to utilize the state qualification system for ICS positions.

EVACUATION PLANNING

Evacuation is described as a process to withdraw from a place in an organized way especially for protection. Pasco County is a coastal community with the Gulf of Mexico as the western boundary and multiple rivers throughout the County. The County prepares for the possibility of emergency protective actions, such as evacuations, which are based on information gathered from multiple sources, to include HURREVAC. The information in this platform is compiled based on real time storm data (i.e., forward speed of the storm, the distance tropical storm conditions extend from the eye, wind speeds, and anticipated 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 Regional Evacuation Study. PCDEM staff receive formal training to use the computer-modeling program. Evacuation times can be found in the Regional Evacuation Study, published online and available upon request.

Most evacuations will be local in scope and PCDEM will initiate actions following a decision by the EPG. In such cases, the actions will be coordinated and administered by emergency response officials using local recourses in accordance with operational procedures. The Pasco County BCC has the authority to implement an evacuation order for all, or parts, of Pasco County. The County Administrator has the authority to implement evacuation orders in the absence of a quorum of the BCC, if the chairperson or vice chairperson is unavailable. The Director of Emergency Management has the responsibility to recommend to the County Administrator the need to issue an evacuation order for high-risk areas in the County prior to anticipated arrival time of storm conditions expected to impact the region.

During any population protective actions, including evacuation, that does not require activation of the Pasco County Emergency Operations Center, PCDEM will provide assistance under various County agencies' normal statutory authority through coordination and collaboration. However, in the event of a multi-jurisdictional operation, the Chairperson of the BCC may issue a declaration of an LSE and evacuation order in support of a municipality. This decision will be made following consultation with the PCDEM Director and representatives of the jurisdictions involved.

Implementation of the evacuation order and ultimately re-entry into the impacted area is the responsibility of the elected legislative body of each local government. Direction and control of all evacuation and re-entry activity within or through a municipality is retained by the local entity affected. However, the ongoing communications and coordination will be maintained by all impacted jurisdictions through regularly scheduled conference calls and situation reports provided by the EOC.

All County assistance and support of such actions will be coordinated from the EOC under the direction of the IC, or PCDEM Director. Decisions on issues such as deploying and pre-deploying resources, determining evacuation zones and routes, directing people caught on evacuation routes to safe shelter, ensuring the sufficiency of fuel for County assets, and addressing any matters relative to the ordered protective actions will be made by the IC in coordination with the EPG.

Evacuation Zone and Route Maps are located online at the Pasco County Emergency Management website. Maps are also included in the annual Disaster Guide, which is available

online and physical copies are available at libraries, community centers, and other public buildings throughout the County for public access.

Emergency Evacuation Assistance

As mandated by the State, Pasco County Emergency Management maintains a registry of individuals with Special Needs who require assistance when evacuating. The EOC coordinates an evacuation plan to relocate these individuals to specialized shelters. The details of this plan can be found in the Evacuation ICP. The SPNS Evacuation Program arranges transportation to specialized shelters for pre-registered clients and a limited number of late registrants. Registrants may be assigned to a SPNS or a medical facility depending on their medical needs and health conditions.

SPNS are generally intended to operate for a limited time, typically one to three days. SPNS will generally open to evacuees 24 – 36 hours prior to the arrival of tropical storm force winds associated with a threatening hurricane. In most instances, evacuees can return to their homes within a short time or relocate to other housing. Special Needs clients requiring temporary housing following a storm can be assisted by social service agencies. An SPNS will continue operating until all the special needs clients have returned home or have been transferred to another facility.

DOH – Pasco is the lead agency for the recruitment of health care providers as defined in F.S. 456.001 (4), to staff the SPNS in times of emergency or disaster events and provide resources to carry out this responsibility.

Special Needs Registration Process

The special needs registrations created and regularly updated by the PCDEM SPNS Coordinator. The registry is maintained within a board database on the county's WebEOC platform, which is managed by PCDEM. This database enables the SPNS Coordinator to upload and manage both new and existing clients within the special needs registry.

At the start of each year, the SPNS Coordinator sends an annual registration letter to every client in the registry, requesting a response. Once the letters are returned, the SPNS Coordinator updates each client's registration for the year. Throughout the year, the SPNS Coordinator contacts clients who have not yet updated their information, ensuring that all details are current and verified for the year.

Throughout the year, the SPNS Coordinator receives new applications for the SPNS registry. After reviewing the applications, the coordinator reaches out the clients to assess their eligibility for the registry. Additionally, the SPNS Coordinator submits a monthly report on the SPNS registry

to the state's Department of Health (DOH) board, ensuring that the client's information in the state's database is updated each month.

TRAINING

Training includes standard courses on multi-agency incident command and management, organizational structure, operational procedures, discipline-specific incident management, agency-specific incident management, and the integration of supporting technologies.

The PCDEM Training and Exercise Coordinator is responsible for the development of the Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP), which encompasses the multi-year training and exercise cycle and calendar. As a part of the IPP and Pasco County staff required training, employees must complete NIMS baseline training which consists of four online Independent Study classes.

Intermediate and Advanced Incident Command System courses are offered by local instructors who have been trained to teach these upper-level courses. Classes are scheduled throughout the year to ensure the maximum number of staff can take the required classes.

Additionally, emergency management training opportunities provided at the state and national level are monitored and communicated to appropriate groups throughout the year. A variety of national courses are available for online and self-study training. Staff members are encouraged to seek professional emergency management accreditation through the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) and/or the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA). Training for personnel involved in EOC operations is outlined in Table 20.

Recommended Trainings for ICS Positions and Other Agency

M=Mandatory	R= Recommended Training						O= Optional					
	Incident Commander	Liaison Officer	Safety Officer	PIO	Planning Section Chief	Logistic Section Chief	Finance Section Chief	Operation Section Chief	Unit Leaders	Division/Group Supervisors	Branch Managers	
Shelter Management	R	R	R	R	R	R	O	R	O	O	O	
WebEOC	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
First Aid/CPR	R	O	R	O	O	R	O	R	O	O	O	
ICS Position Specific Courses	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
O-305: All-Hazards Incident Management Team	R	O	O	O	R	R	R	R	O	O	O	
IS-200.C: Introduction to ICS	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	
2019VG300: Intermediate ICS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
2019V G400: Advanced ICS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
IS-800.C: National Response Framework	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	
IS-235.C: Emergency Planning	O	O	O	O	R	R	R	R	O	O	O	

	Incident Commander	Liaison Officer	Safety Officer	PIO	Planning Section Chief	Logistic Section Chief	Finance Section Chief	Operation Section Chief	Unit Leaders	Division/Group Supervisors	Branch Managers
IS-220.B: Leadership and Influence	R	O	O	O	R	R	R	R	O	O	O
IS-241: Decision Making/Problem Solving	R	O	R	R	R	R	R	R	O	O	O
IS-242: Effective Communication	R	R	O	R	R	O	O	O	O	O	O
IS-244.B: Developing and Managing Volunteers	R	R	O	O	R	R	O	R	O	O	O
G557: Rapid Assessment Planning	R	O	O	O	R	O	O	R	O	O	O
G2300: Intermediate Emergency Operations Center Functions	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
IS-100.C: Orientation or Basic ICS	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
IS-700.B: An Introduction to NIMS	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
G191:ICS/EOC Interface	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
G358: Evacuation and Re-entry	R	O	R	O	R	R	O	R	O	O	O
G288: Local Volunteer and Donations Management	R	O	O	O	R	R	R	R	O	O	O
G386: Mass Fatalities Incidents Response	R	O	R	O	O	O	O	R	O	O	O
FL-601: Preliminary Damage Assessment	R	O	R	O	R	O	O	R	O	O	O
IS-230.D: Fundamentals of Emergency Management	R	O	O	O	R	O	O	R	O	O	O

Table 20 - Recommended Training Courses for ICS Positions and Other Agencies

EXERCISES

The purpose of delivering exercise to various stakeholders is to bolster emergency response while in a controlled environment that allows PCDEM to conduct improvement plans (IP) and corrective action plans (CAP) based on exercise functions. If this is not feasible, it is encouraged that they reach out to the Training and Exercise Coordinator for other exercise opportunities that can be made available to them.

Exercise participants may vary and include local agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, NGOs, or private partners such as Red Cross, The Salvation Army, NWS, FDEM, FEMA, Urban Areas security Initiative (UASI), and Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF). All those who have active roles in the EOC will be encouraged to participate in at least one exercise delivered throughout the year.

Regional coordination efforts are enhanced by the presence of collaborative regional organizations that includes representation from many different jurisdictions and cross-cutting disciplines. Regional terrorism exercises are conducted annually through RDSTF Region IV, PSO, UASI, and PCDEM. RDSTF, PSO, UASI, and PCDEM carry out tabletop, functional, and full-scale exercises with full participation of regional partners. RDSTF, PSO, UASI, and PCDEM exercises may be coordinated.

Trainings and exercises are determined for each year at the prior year’s IPP workshop. The IPP is developed for the subsequent four years that follow the current year and should include stakeholders with an active role in emergency response. Trainings and exercises outlined in the IPP are informed by the after action report (AAR)/IP that is developed after every event, incident, or exercise. At a minimum one FSE will be delivered annually.

Planning meetings are held to discuss, review, or create content for an exercise. Typically conducted in person, these meetings are essential during both the initial and final stages of exercise development.

Developing an exercise is a detailed and time-consuming process, and while not all tasks can be completed during these meetings, they are vital for evaluating the progress, assigning responsibilities, reviewing completed work, and setting deadlines. Once the planning team is in place, online collaborative meetings can be utilized to support the ongoing planning process.

Basic Exercise Timeline	
Month	Activities
January	Request position specific courses based on the budget
May	FDEM statewide exercise/WebEOC/shelter
June	IPP workshop – FDEM/EMPW
August	COOP TX and EX
November	Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) training
December	IPP workshop at the county level

Table 21- Outline of a yearly exercise timeline created by the PCDEM Training and Exercise Coordinator

All exercises will be conducted according to the requirements of the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP). HSEEP is a capabilities and performance-based exercise program that provides a standardized policy, methodology, and language for designing, developing, executing, and evaluating all exercises.

After each training session or exercise, participants will be provided with an evaluation sheet to capture their feedback on the content and delivery. Additionally, an AAR will be completed following the exercise, which will inform the continuous improvement process.

All participants will receive a copy of the AAR, which will include an Improvement Plan specific to the exercise. This plan is based on feedback from the evaluations and the post-exercise hotwash. Each improvement plan will be incorporated into a unified CAP, which outlines the program’s goals and target capabilities for the annual IPP. The CAP is a living document that is regularly updated by PCDEM Managers and the Training and Exercise Coordinator to address identified capability gaps in existing plans and procedures. It serves as a tool to prioritize and track deficiencies identified during training or exercises.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Public awareness and education efforts by PCDEM are led by the Public Private Partnership Coordinator, who is responsible for planning and identifying various events throughout the year aimed at educating both residents and visitors on the actions to take before, during, and after a disaster or threat.

These educational initiatives are carried out through speaking engagements, participation in community events, distribution of publications and brochures, an annual Disaster Exposition, media features, maintenance of the PCDEM website, and radio/television Public Service Announcements (PSAs). The diverse range of events and methods ensures that educational information reaches the entire community, not just specific groups.

The events are designed to inform residents about potential hazards, their personal responsibilities, and the actions they can take to reduce loss of life and property damage during a disaster. Each event is tailored to the intended audience to ensure the information is relevant and useful.

The Community Rating System (CRS), often utilized in the context of community engagement and public outreach, serves a diverse range of functions. Flood awareness education and resources are tailored to the county's needs while following the guidelines set forth by FEMA's CRS Manual. This is a collaborative effort involving multiple departments within the county. Pasco County has consistently produced and distributed outreach materials in the community covering key CRS topics as they relate to flood hazard awareness education using these guidelines. All areas of the county must be well-informed about their flood risk and the available options to effectively reduce any potential threat of flooding.

During disasters, recovery and mitigation information is made available to the public through various channels, including the Resident Information Center (RIC), press releases, door-to-door contact, bulk mailings, public briefings, and informational packets or postings on bulletin boards in local businesses. These efforts are coordinated by Pasco County's network of PIOs. Additionally, the Floodplain Manager and Emergency Management in Pasco County distribute flood mitigation information to property owners in Repetitive Loss Areas.

Pasco County's Evacuation Zones and Routes Map is updated and published annually, just before the start of hurricane season, and is distributed through local newspapers. This map plays a crucial role in the Tampa Bay Region Disaster Planning Guide, which is released each year. Additionally, the Pasco County Emergency Management Disaster Guide is accessible year-round on the official PCDEM website. The website offers a convenient "look-up" tool that allows

residents to enter their address and quickly identify their designated Hurricane Evacuation Zone, ensuring they have the information they need to prepare for potential storms.

PCDEM routinely conducts Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. This training educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members are also encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

MUTUAL AID

Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement

In accordance with Section 252.40, Florida Statutes, participating parties are authorized to engage in cooperative relationships (mutual aid agreements) to accept services, equipment, supplies, materials, or funds for emergency management efforts. All special districts, educational districts, and other local and regional governments can participate in the agreement. Any participating party may request assistance (oral or written) during an emergency, disaster, or event.

The Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (SMAA) supersedes other inter-local agreements during “major or catastrophic disasters” (usually evidenced by the governor’s proclamation of a state of emergency, activation of the State EOC and the State Emergency Plan, and/or by Federal Declarations of Fire, Emergency, or Disaster). The SMAA may also be applicable between participating parties in absence of an inter-local agreement during minor disasters.

Emergency Management Assistance Compact

In accordance with Chapter 252, Part III, Florida Statutes, the state adopted the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) which provides for the mutual assistance between states during any emergency or disaster when the state has depleted its resources, supplies, or equipment. In the event a request for assistance (RFA) comes from another state, the governor may order the mobilization of state resources under the EMAC to be deployed to the impacted state. The management and coordination of these resources will be administered through the Mutual Aid Branch of the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) coordinating structure under the direction of the Logistics Section Chief. This process is highlighted in the Florida SERT Unified Logistics Plan.

Requesting Mutual Aid

During an EOC activation, mutual aid will be requested if the IC deems that local resources are inadequate. The IC or authorized representative, shall transmit mutual aid requests through the Logistics Section in coordination with the Procurement Unit and Resource Unit. The Procurement Unit can initiate mutual aid to fulfill a resource request entered by the Logistics Section. The Logistics Section shall serve as the contact and coordination point for all mutual aid requests. The Resources Unit will coordinate and track all mutual aid requests. For local emergencies where the EOC is not activated, local agencies may request mutual aid through their own channels, or through coordination with PCDEM.

When Pasco County requests mutual aid under an LSE, the resource request process outlined under Concept of Operations will be followed at the local level. A resource request is entered into the local WebEOC Resource Requests board by the Logistics Section and the Procurement Unit will attempt to fulfill locally. If the resource cannot be procured locally, a request will be submitted through the State SERT Missions WebEOC board under the corresponding incident. Resource requests will include the necessary mission information that is required by Section I of the Resource Support Agreement (RSA), to include a description of the mission, resources, and capabilities.

Responding to a Mutual Aid Request

When a request is received from FDEM or a requesting party to aid, PCDEM will immediately contact the appropriate agency head to determine if resources are available. This request may be initially conveyed verbally but will be entered into WebEOC to ensure proper tracking and documentation. PCDEM will advise the appropriate agency head that the SMAA stipulates that “assisting parties shall render assistance to the extent personnel, equipment, and resources are available”, and that “participating governments agree to render assistance to the fullest extent possible.” The agency head should be informed that the requesting party is responsible for costs incurred unless there is an agreement between the parties that all or a portion of the costs will be provided without reimbursement.

If the agency head determines that requested resources can be provided, Section II of the RSA will be completed and forwarded to PCDEM, and a copy will be provided to the requesting party immediately. The requesting party/FDEM shall respond by executing and returning a copy to the assisting party as soon as possible, and PCDEM will notify the agency head and provide a copy of the executed documentation. If the request was not routed through FDEM, PCDEM will contact State Logistics and advise of the request and the response to the request as soon as possible, subsequently keeping them informed if the requesting party made the request directly to the assisting party. A copy of the RSA with information received will be maintained by the Planning Section and will be filed with all other disaster documentation.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Finance Section shall provide fiscal and managerial support as required. The Director of Pasco County Office of Management & Budget (OMB) has the task and responsibility of financial recovery for any disaster that may occur in Pasco County. In addition to OMB, Pasco County Purchasing Department, Fiscal Services Department, and the Clerk of the Circuit Court share supporting responsibilities for fiscal management. Under an EOC activation, personnel from these departments typically staff the Finance Section to ensure a seamless transition and adherence to county fiscal policy. The Finance Section is responsible for processing and maintaining records of expenditures during an activation. PCDEM assists through procurement of pre-disaster training for county staff, to include state-supported recovery courses that highlight the necessary processes and documentation for facilitating financial reimbursement and maintaining fiscal responsibility during disaster operations and recovery.

The following documentation should be produced and maintained for all operational activities, regardless of if resources or services are owned, contracted, leased, or acquired through mutual aid:

- Daily activity reports/daily logs (ICS Form 214)
- Damage Assessment Reports
- Invoices, canceled checks, and delivery tickets
- Force account labor documentation
- Supporting documentation (will vary by activity)

If resources are required through mutual aid, it is important to document who assigned this assistance, what they did, and how it was controlled. In addition, an invoice showing the date, amount paid, and check number is required showing that the county payment was made to the other jurisdiction. Direct mutual aid requires the same documentation for both the sending and receiving parties.

The assisting party shall bill the requesting party with an itemized invoice as soon as practical, but no later than 60-days following the period of assistance. The requesting party shall pay bills or advise of disputed items not later than 60-days after the billing date. Modifications can be made through mutual agreement by both parties to extend the ending payment time.

When Pasco provides resources for mutual aid for EMAC or through the SMAA, a claim is submitted following the mission and return of resources. The claim will include a full reimbursement package for services rendered and resources supplied during the period of assistance. The department responsible for resources will submit all necessary documentation as

outlined in the SMAA for reimbursement within 45 days after the period of assistance has concluded.

Additionally, the Public Assistance (PA) program provides reimbursement to state and local governments for the repair or reconstruction of public facilities which are owned and operated by a government, debris removal, and protective measures. FDEM administers the PA program as the grantee for all federal funds related to the program, Pasco County is a sub-grantee to the program. Any assistance requested under a presidential declaration may be eligible for reimbursement. Documentation requirements for PA reimbursement are further discussed in the Recovery Annex.

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS

Emergency utilization of resources and capabilities of organizations not part of Pasco County government will be pre-arranged under agreements or understandings to the maximum extent feasible. Agreements and understandings will be created and adopted by duly authorized officials and will be formalized in writing whenever possible. Funding agreements typically are authorized by the BCC after review by county attorney. Pasco Ordinance, Chapter 30 allows for the County Administrator or delegate to sign funding agreements deemed appropriate under an LSE. Section 30-32 provides additional context for appropriate measures.

Agreements and understandings between elements of Pasco County will be included as a part of the County plans. Details of such agreements and understandings will be set forth in supporting operations procedures, instructions, and other directives of the units of government concerned; agreements remain in effect until rescinded or modified. Agreements must state the procedure for payment or reimbursement for personnel services rendered, equipment costs, and expenditure of material; a clear statement of agreement on this matter is mandatory.

Pasco County maintains interlocal agreements (ILA) with all six established municipalities to address NIMS implementation, resource sharing, requests for state or federal assistance, and reimbursement of costs. Municipalities and constitutionals are responsible for submitting their own requests for reimbursement of their eligible disaster expenses through the FEMA PA process. Additional information on the financial relationship between the County and municipalities regarding mitigation funding can be found in the approved LMS.

FINANCIAL AUTHORITIES

Authority to expend funds in emergency management operations is contained in Florida Statute 252 and in county ordinances. In general, emergency operations are funded by the budget allocations of each agency involved. A presidential disaster or emergency declaration will permit funding under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act P.L. 100-707

in addition to the financial resources initiated at the state and local levels. Federal disaster assistance is generally provided at a 75% federal cost share, with state and local governments sharing the remaining 25%. There is precedent for the federal government to assume a larger share than 75% under unusual circumstances.

Federal Funding Sources

Many funding sources provide financial assistance to support preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. Table 22 provides a current (as of January 2025) overview of those federal funding sources which may be available to local government, non-profit organizations, business owners, and individuals. Local government's role in obtaining funding from these sources involves maintaining awareness of the availability of funds, communicating to eligible applicants the availability and processes related to obtaining funds, assisting eligible applicants with applying for funds, assisting fund awardees with project management and financial management, where appropriate, and taking action to leverage funds where appropriate to strengthen and sustain the local community. In this regard, local government must maintain awareness of and adhere to the processes and procedures set forth by state government to access funds. Local government commonly becomes a contractual sub-grantee to the state.

National Preparedness Assistance Programs			
Program	Authority	Purpose	Eligible Applicants
Emergency Management Performance Grant	ALN 97.042	Provides assistance for the development, maintenance, and improvement of state and local emergency management capabilities	SAA
Homeland Security Grant Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Homeland Security Grant Program Urban Area Security Initiative Operation Stonegarden 	ALN 97.067	Enhances the capacity of state and local emergency responders to prevent, respond to, and recover from a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) terrorism incident involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) devices and cyber attacks	SAA, except Operation Stonegarden which allows local units of government to apply directly

Table 22

Non-Disaster Assistance Programs

Program	Authority	Purpose	Eligible Applicants
Cooperating Technical Partners	ALN 97.045	Provides technical assistance, training, and/or data to support flood hazard data development activities	State and local government
Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program	ALN 97.024	Supplements the work of local social service organizations within the United States, both private and governmental, to help people in need of emergency assistance	Private-nonprofit community and government organizations

Table 23

Emergency Personnel Assistance Programs

Program	Authority	Purpose	Eligible Applicants
Assistance to Firefighters Grant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Prevention and Safety • Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response 	ALN 97.044	Provides assistance to local fire departments to protect citizens and firefighters against the effects of fire and fire-related incidents	Fire department and other local first responders
National Fire Academy Training Assistance	ALN 97.018	Provides training to increase the professional level of the fire service and others responsible for fire prevention and control	Fire departments, other first responders, emergency management officials and individuals
National Urban Search and Rescue Response System	ALN 97.025	Provides funding for the acquisition, maintenance, and storage of equipment, training, exercises, and training facilities to meet task force position criteria, and conduct and participate in meetings with the National US&R Response System	US&R Task Forces

Table 24

Disaster-Specific Assistance Programs			
Program	Authority	Purpose	Eligible Applicants
Fire Management Assistance Grant	ALN 97.046	Assistance for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately-owned forests or grasslands, which threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster	State and local government
Community Disaster Loans	ALN 97.030	To provide funds to any eligible jurisdiction in a designated disaster area that has suffered a substantial loss of tax and other revenue	Local government through the Governor's Authorized Representative
Public Assistance	ALN 97.036	Provides assistance to alleviate suffering and hardship resulting from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President	State and local government; private-nonprofit organizations via states
Flood Mitigation Assistance Swift Current	ALN 97.144	Provides grants to states and local governments to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) following a flood-related disaster event	State and local government
Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery	N/A	Provides funds to help cities, counties, and states recovery from Presidentially declared disasters.	State and local government
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	ALN 97.039	Provides grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration	State and local government; certain non-profit organizations or institutions

Table 25

Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness Assistance Programs			
Program	Authority	Purpose	Eligible Applicants
Community Assistance Program State Support Services Element	ALN 97.023	Provides funding to states to provide technical assistance to communities in the NFIP and to evaluate community performance in implementing NFIP floodplain management activities	State government
Flood Mitigation Assistance	ALN 97.029	Provides funding to assist states and communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under the NFIP	State and local governments
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities	ALN 97.047	Provides funds for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event	State and local government
National Dam Safety Program	ALN 97.041	Provides financial assistance to the states for strengthening their dam safety programs	State government
Emergency Operations Center Grant Program	ALN 97.052	To improve emergency management preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure and interoperable EOCs with a focus on addressing identified deficiencies and needs	SAA

Table 26

Local and State Funding Sources

State and local governments also provide financial assistance to support preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. Table 27 provides an overview of available funding from state and local sources to promote hazard preparedness.

Local and State Assistance Programs			
Program	Authority	Purpose	Eligible Applicants
Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Trust Fund	F.S. 252.373	Provides funding to implement and administer state and local emergency management programs, including administration, training, and operations	State, regional, and local governments; private organizations
Hurricane Mitigation Fee Fund	Pasco Land Development Code Section 1302.7	Funds activities related to improving shelter training, safety and capacity, hurricane education and outreach, and upgrading warning and notification capabilities	PCDEM

Table 27

RECOVERY ANNEX

INTRODUCTION

Following a disaster, once the principal threat has passed and the primary concern of protection of residents from harm has been addressed, it becomes critical to public safety to ensure the orderly recovery of the community. Recovery functions include continued, potentially long-term response operations, such as debris management, community needs coordination, and infrastructure repair. The county will liaise with state and federal response and recovery agencies to conduct damage assessments and respond to the basic needs of residents who may have lost their homes, possessions, businesses, and/or jobs. The CEMP Recovery Annex provides the framework for recovery planning and implementation following a disaster.

COORDINATING STRUCTURE

PCDEM will address the long-term operations needed to return the community to normalcy and a functioning post-disaster state. PCDEM coordinates and oversees recovery efforts across Pasco County, working closely with local agencies, community organizations, and state and federal partners to support residents and rebuild essential infrastructure. Support agencies include, but are not limited to Building Construction Services, OMB, Community Services, Community Development, CERT, and Fresh Start for Pasco. The PCDEM Director or Recovery Manager is the initial contact with FDEM to coordinate recovery efforts. The PCDEM Recovery Manager is the Local Disaster Recovery Manager as described in the National Disaster Recovery Framework, 2024. A comprehensive illustration of assisting agencies during recovery is in Figure 19.

The Recovery Manager maintains contact with and is the liaison between the County and State recovery staff, the Joint Field Office, federal partners, and municipalities. Situational awareness of recovery activities is provided by a Recovery SitRep that is published to all stakeholders, to include local, state, federal, non-governmental, and private partners. Information that may be included in the Recovery SitRep include status of state and federal assistance, updates for ongoing recovery activities, and key locations for community recovery assistance.

If the Incident Commander identifies that the extent of the disaster requires a Deputy Operations Section Chief – Recovery, including its subordinate groups and requisite lead agencies, the section may be activated during the response phase. This section will coordinate to establish DRC, additional staging areas, temporary disaster housing sites, and other sites that may be needed.

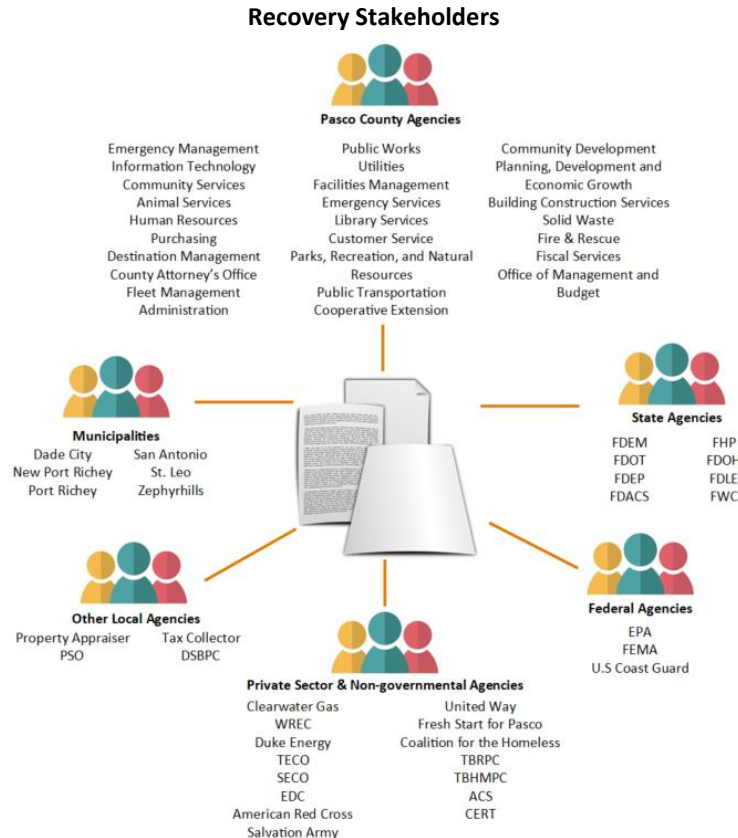


Figure 19

TRANSITION TO RECOVERY OPERATIONS

The transition from response to recovery depends on the immediate impact of the disaster and the stability of emergency response operations. As the EOC shifts its focus from response to recovery, emergency management efforts move from response objectives to coordinating long-term recovery operations. This transition requires coordination among local, state, and federal agencies, with emphasis on rebuilding the community in a sustainable and resilient manner.

During the initial recovery period, the Liaison Officer will collaborate with the Deputy OSC Recovery to coordinate support for the recovery needs of other municipalities within Pasco County. Upon transitioning to the full recovery phase, the PCDEM Recovery Manager will assume responsibility for this function, in coordination with support agencies.

Initiating requests for state and federal disaster assistance are requested through the SERT Missions WebEOC board. This may include requesting state liaisons for the county EOC, support for Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) Section 1206 post-disaster floodplain management activities, and staff for conducting a Joint PDA. Requests regarding federal and state disaster

assistance will be further coordinated through SERT Logistics and/or the assigned regional recovery coordinator.

UNDECLARED DISASTERS

An undeclared disaster is an event that causes significant damage but is not federally declared, limiting assistance available for community-wide recovery. Disasters that don't receive a federal declaration inhibit the county from receiving federal disaster aid, to include the PA and IA programs. In this event, the PCDEM Recovery Manager provides referral services to Community Services, Community Development, and local LTRG for unmet needs case management. The Recovery Manager will coordinate application for other disaster assistance programs that may be available without a presidential declaration, such as SBA and ARC.

RECOVERY FUNCTIONS

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Damage Assessments play a crucial role in establishing baseline human and community needs by providing valuable data obtained from field inspections. This information will be used to assist in recovery objectives and resource needs. Conducting timely damage assessment operations provides a county-wide general overview of the most significantly impacted areas and, therefore, establishes a prioritization for damage assessment team deployment, resource allocation, and disaster assistance. Damage assessment assists the county in identifying and prioritizing short- and long-term recovery needs through the assessment of infrastructure status and concurrent human needs assessment.

Building Construction Services serves as the lead agency for the Damage Assessment Branch, and the Pasco County Property Appraiser's Office and Pasco County GIS provide analytical support for damage assessment. These additional agencies can provide a graphic depiction of damage levels as well as estimated monetary damage assessments. The Corporate Deputy OSC Recovery will be activated as needed, and will be led by staff from the Planning, Development, and Economic Growth Department. Pasco County Economic Development Council (EDC) can support by providing data on business-specific losses.

The Damage Assessment Branch is led by the Damage Assessment Branch Director. This position is typically filled by the Pasco County Building Official or designee and is responsible for assembling and managing Damage Assessment Teams, as well as receiving damage assessment reports and determining the magnitude of the disaster. Supporting agencies for assessment teams include Public Works and Code Compliance. The Damage Assessment Branch coordinates with the Deputy OSC Recovery when requesting a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (JPDA) or additional staff for teams.

Initial Damage Assessment

The damage assessment process is conducted in phases, starting with the Initial Damage Assessment (IDA), or windshield assessment. The IDA evaluates affected areas, quantifies damage to critical infrastructure, and identifies immediate life-safety priorities. The IDA is crucial for determining the disaster's scale, establishing eligibility for state and federal assistance, and requesting additional resources to support recovery efforts.

The IDA may be accomplished by participating in FDEM lead aerial assessments. Prior to hurricane season every year, PCDEM identifies potential participants for this assessment to avoid delaying the assessment. Other surveillance technologies may also be used to develop an initial needs assessment for goods and services required by Pasco County due to the disaster. The Human Needs Assessment data will be monitored by the Planning Section and distributed to the Human Service Response agencies.

An initial windshield assessment is conducted by the Damage Assessment Branch immediately after a disaster occurs. This assessment is completed through a survey and dashboard developed by Pasco County GIS. This windshield assessment quickly assesses life safety needs and the magnitude of the disaster and identifies those areas where further efforts should be concentrated if further assessment is necessary. The information shall be reported to the Recovery Manager within 12 hours of the event. If the windshield assessment indicates the damage is severe and widespread, a Local State of Emergency may be declared while a detailed, written damage assessment is still pending.

The windshield assessment is conducted through the implementation and utilization of the community Damage Assessment Survey, which is linked to the internal Master Incidents Dashboard. This board is monitored by GIS and Situation Unit in the Planning Section during an activation. The Damage Assessment Board uses ArcGIS Survey123, or a like platform, to generate a survey that is used to estimate damage costs and collect information regarding location, who is impacted, the extent of damage, and if there are any human service's needs. The survey requests additional information, to include level of insurance, that will also help in determining need for FEMA IA. The data is mapped by GIS, which contributes to identifying the impacted population profile. This system allows real-time verified data from field teams to be transmitted to the EOC for further evaluation by the Damage Assessment Branch Director.

The board is available through the Pasco County website, or by calling the customer service line. If an individual is unable to fill out the survey, a customer service representative will input the data for them. Damage Assessment Teams also complete the survey when they identify unreported damage and use the information from the survey to verify reports. The Damage Assessment Branch is responsible for compiling and analyzing initial damage assessments; the

results are mapped on a GIS map with color-coded categories. The board is to be published pre-event, when possible, by GIS and advertised by the PIO at the IC's request.

The Public Works Department will assist in the damage assessment by conducting inspections of bridges, roads, and other critical infrastructure. The Branch Director will compile damage assessment data in coordination with the Situation Unit Leader and Deputy OSC Recovery, to be included in the SitRep. The Damage Assessment Branch will compile all collected data into a comprehensive initial damage assessment report to share with local, state, and federal partners. PCDEM will coordinate the initial assessment with the State of Florida Reconnaissance Unit, as needed. Internal departments will conduct assessments on their own infrastructure, to include Public Works, Utilities, PRNR, and Facilities. Data, to include cost to repair estimates, are communicated to the PCDEM Recovery Manager, or the Deputy OSC Recovery, for assessing the need for FEMA PA.

Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment

Based on the severity and extent of the damage, along with the geographic size of Pasco County, the Incident Commander or PCDEM Director or Recovery Manager may request multiple damage assessment teams comprised of representatives from FEMA, the Small Business Administration (SBA), and local government to complete the Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (JPDA). This information will assist in obtaining state and federal aid. When the criteria are met, FEMA's IA Program assists survivors with disaster recovery needs that local government and community organizations are unable to meet due to limited resources and capabilities. Once the county and state monetary thresholds are met, FEMA's PA program will assist the county in recovering costs from disaster response and recovery activities, to include repairing or replacing damaged infrastructure. There is a history of declarations that precede meeting the designated threshold, particularly as it relates to debris management activities and emergency protective measures.

PCDEM will submit the compiled data from the IDA to the State Regional Coordinator and formally request a JPDA. The IDA data will be transmitted through appropriate communication channels, such as email, phone, or a secure digital platform, depending on the available infrastructure and urgency of the request. Typically, a JPDA request is accompanied by an entry in the WebEOC SERT Missions board for mission tracking and documentation.

Once approved, the JPDA will be scheduled in coordination with the PCDEM Recovery Manager, overseeing the Deputy OSC Recovery. Supporting agencies will depend on the extent of damage and types of structures impacted. Likely agencies include Building Construction Services, Facilities, Utilities, PRNR, Public Works, and PSO. The JPDA may be conducted in person or virtually, dependent on the level of information provided in the IDA report.

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS

DRCs help to serve survivors after impact of an emergency or disaster in the community. The PCDEM Recovery Manager has lead responsibility for coordinating the identification of DRC locations pre-disaster during the planning phase and the establishment of DRCs in the county post-disaster. After individuals have applied for federal disaster assistance by calling 1-800-621-3362 (TTY 1-800-462-7585) or applying online using the FEMA website, they can visit the DRCs to ask any disaster-related questions, receive more specific information on federal, state, and voluntary recovery programs, check on the status of their applications, and receive assistance filling out a U.S. Small Business Administration low-interest disaster loan application. Personnel at the centers can also provide information on cost-effective measures for reducing risk of damage in the future.

Some of the services that a DRC may provide include:

- Guidance regarding disaster recovery assistance and programs for survivors.
- Clarification of any written correspondence received from FEMA.
- Housing assistance and rental resource information.
- Answers to questions, resolution to problems & referrals to agencies that may provide further assistance.
- Status of applications being processed by FEMA.
- SBA program information regarding assistance.
- Update registration information.
- Learn about measures for rebuilding that can eliminate or reduce the risk of future loss.

The county may additionally facilitate the provision of local support services at an established DRC, to include representation from the LTRG, other voluntary agencies, DOH-Pasco, public and private utilities, Community Services, and Community Development.

DRCs in Pasco County are staffed by FEMA representatives and are established in pre-approved locations after IA has been declared for the county. PCDEM will request in writing that FEMA establish a DRC immediately following the IA declaration and will provide possible locations based on pre-disaster plans and area of impact. The PCDEM Recovery Manager will work directly with the assigned FDEM and FEMA representatives to ensure timely request and implementation of DRC operations, and a DRC location request will be formally initiated through a resource request on the SERT Missions WebEOC board.

Steps for Opening a DRC

Step Number	Description
1	PCDEM identifies County-owned buildings as possible DRC locations.

Step Number	Description
2	PCDEM will ensure the point of contact for the building understands the process and approves of FEMA using the building following a disaster.
3	PCDEM will visit the buildings to verify that they meet the basic requirements and take pictures. An aerial view of the buildings and the surrounding land will be provided.
4	A representative from Fire & Rescue will accompany PCDEM to conduct an ADA compliance walk through. Any issues that do not meet the ADA standards will need to be addressed, or a replacement facility will need to be identified.
5	PCDEM will work with GIS and GOPASCO to provide a map of the bus routes for each DRC location.
7	The Governor will request federal assistance, and the President will issue an Emergency or Major Disaster Declaration.
8	PCDEM will analyze data to determine areas with the highest impact (private residences and businesses) to establish how many DRCs are needed and what location(s) will be the most effective.
9	PCDEM will contact the point of contact for the chosen location(s) to verify that there are no current barriers to establishing a DRC.
10	PCDEM will work with the state recovery coordinator and a FEMA representative to determine if DRC locations are appropriate for the County, to include a joint facility tour.
11	Request security support through PSO or private security agency.
12	FEMA will establish the DRCs in the chosen locations.

Table 28

PCDEM has pre-selected locations to be used as Disaster Recovery Centers. DRCs can be fixed or mobile, located inside the site location, or outside in a mobile trailer or bus. DRC locations are inspected by PCDEM and Fire Rescue annually, pre-hurricane season, to assess feasibility and facilitate the DRC selection process post-incident. PCDEM Recovery Manager maintains the list of locally approved DRC locations in the SERT Emergency Sites WebEOC board.

DRC Locations		
Area Served	Location Name	Location Address
East Pasco	UF/IFAS Pasco Extension-Stallings Building	15029 14th St., Dade City, FL 33523
East Pasco	Hugh Embry Dade City Library	14215 4th St., Dade City, FL 33523
East Pasco	New River Library	34043 FL-54, Wesley Chapel, FL 33543
Central Pasco	Land O'Lakes Branch Library	2818 Collier Parkway, Land O'Lakes, FL 34639
Central Pasco	Land O'Lakes Recreation Complex	3032 Collier Parkway, Land O'Lakes, FL 34639

Area Served	Location Name	Location Address
West Pasco	Fasano Regional Hurricane Shelter	11611 Denton Ave., Hudson, FL 34667
West Pasco	Centennial Library	5740 Moog Rd., Holiday, FL 34690
West Pasco	Hudson Regional Library	8012 Library Rd., Hudson, FL 34667
West Pasco	Veterans Memorial Park Center	14333 Hicks Rd., Hudson, FL 34669

Table 29

POST DISASTER PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The FEMA PA Program is a federal recovery grant program that provides assistance to state, tribal, local governments, and select private non-profit organizations to facilitate timely and successful recovery for communities. There are seven PA categories of work, two of which are classified as temporary or emergency (six months to complete work), and five of which are classified as permanent (18 months to complete work). Temporary or emergency work is performed to reduce or eliminate an immediate threat to life, protect health and safety, and to protect improved property that is threatened in a significant way as a result of the disaster. Permanent work is required to restore a damaged facility, through repair or restoration, to its pre-disaster design, function, and capacity in accordance with applicable codes or standards.

Prior to a PA declaration, PCDEM is the lead agency responsible for coordinating the collection of data to support a Request for Public Assistance (RPA). Once the county has received a PA declaration, Pasco County OMB is the lead agency responsible for coordinating PA reimbursement activities, including but not limited to, the collection of documentation, coordination with state and federal partners, initiating task orders for disaster-related recovery services, project formulation, project management, and grant closeout. While the EOC is activated, these agencies staff the Deputy OSC Recovery under the Operations Section and the Public Assistance Unit under the Finance Section, respectively.

Pasco County's OMB Grant Manager shall serve as the principal representative in the preparation of disaster application forms, monitoring of projects to completion and certification, and disbursement of relief funds, in coordination with PCDEM and Fiscal Services. Pasco County's OMB Grant Manager shall also coordinate the development of the PA project documentation packages and represent Pasco County in negotiations for restitution of losses with federal and state officials.

The Finance Section, staffed by OMB, Fiscal Services, and Purchasing staff, will implement procedures for financial transactions, cost accounting, grants management, document tracking, and payroll processing. Following deactivation of the EOC/Area Command, these functions shall

be continued by those agencies that staff the Finance Section. Procedures and instructions for preparing Project Worksheets (PWs) and tracking disaster costs have been developed by the Finance Section which also provides training on these procedures.

Public Assistance Grant Program Process

The objective of the FEMA PA Grant Program is to aid states, local governments, and certain non-profit organizations to alleviate suffering and hardship resulting from Presidentially declared major disasters or emergencies.

Through the PA program, FEMA provides supplemental federal disaster grant assistance for the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain private non-profit (PNP) organizations. The typical federal share of assistance is 75% of the eligible cost for emergency work and permanent restoration. The State determines how the non-federal share, up to 25%, is split with the sub-grantees. The President has the authority to increase the federal cost share up to 100% for any declared disaster for any PA category.

Pasco County OMB is responsible for administration of the FEMA PA grant for county projects, in coordination with PCDEM. The county maintains one primary and one secondary contractor for disaster-related recovery services that can be tasked to assist with grant administration, reporting, briefings, and other reimbursement-related activities. Under an emergency declaration, task orders under existing contracts can be initiated with approval by the Purchasing Director up to \$100,000.00, by the County Administrator for purchases above \$100,000.01, in accordance with the Pasco County Purchasing Policies and Procedures Manual.

A Public Officials Briefing will be held for affected governments and qualified not-for-profit organizations to provide information on available assistance and procedures and provide "Notice of Interest" forms to be filed with state and federal officials. Subsequent "Project Applications" shall be filed with the FDEM and FEMA for further processing and state and federal authorities will evaluate the project applications and determine justification for assistance.

An applicant briefing will be scheduled to advise potential eligible applicants (municipalities, county government, and non-profit entities) of the availability and requirements of federal assistance. The OMB Grant Manager will attend the applicant briefing on behalf of the County, as well as the PCDEM Recovery Manager and a designee from the contract service provider, as necessary. These briefings will be publicized through Media Relations and Communications, in accordance with 44 CFR-206 Subpart G & H. Each potential applicant will be asked to complete and return an RPA form. The RPA forms report damages suffered by each potential applicant and

are used by the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) to determine the number of damage survey and inspection teams needed.

A completed RPA will be transmitted to the FCO for each potential applicant. If the RPA is denied by the FCO, the applicant will be notified in writing, explaining the specific reasons for denial, and providing information on appeals procedures. Once the RPA is received by FEMA, a kick-off meeting will be scheduled to provide the necessary information for starting the PA process. Representatives from OMB, PCDEM, and the recovery contract service provider (as necessary), will attend the kick-off meeting. These staff will also attend the subsequent Exploratory Call and Recovery Scoping Meeting after a Program Deliver Manager (PDMG) has been assigned.

Potential applicants will also be requested to complete and return a “Designation of Sub-Grantee’s Agent” form that designates the official authorized to sign the funding agreement and execute relevant public assistance documents. Before any public assistance funds are released, the state and applicant must enter into a disaster relief funding agreement.

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

The OMB Grant Manager will coordinate with each applicant to arrange the survey and inspection schedule, ensure participation by appropriate local officials, and ensure necessary records and documentation are available. The inspection team will prepare PW for each project, identifying activity descriptions, scopes of work, and cost estimates. Each PW undergoes two levels of review before approval by the FCO. This approval must occur within 45-days of the date of the first inspection.

The first review performed jointly by state and federal damage survey and inspection teams is for concurrence on the PW. If state and federal officials concur, the PW goes to the FCO for approval. If there is a disagreement on the PW, it is returned to the applicant for resolution of the discrepancy. The second review conducted by FEMA staff is done before the final approval by the FCO. If the PW is approved, it is forwarded to the FCO for approval; if there is a discrepancy, it is returned to the survey and inspection team for resolution.

The Sandy Improvement Act of 2013 provides for Public Assistance Permanent Work Alternative Procedures which allows substantially greater flexibility in the use of federal funds for Public

Assistance applicants and far less administrative burden and costs for all parties if applicants accept grants based on fixed, capped estimates which may be provided by applicants' licensed engineer and validated by an independent, expert panel.

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

Pasco County, on behalf of a sub-grantee, can petition the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) to appeal any FEMA determination on, or denial of, federal public assistance. This appeal must be made in writing within 60-days from the date of notification of FEMA's determination. The sub-grantee must provide enough information to allow the county to provide the GAR the facts needed to assess the validity of the appeal. The FCO will review the appeal and conduct the necessary investigation to determine the validity of the appeal. The FCO will, within 90-days following receipt of the appeal, notify the GAR in writing of the disposition of the appeal or if additional information is required. If additional information is requested, the FCO shall have an additional 90-days (from receipt of the information) to review the information and notify the GAR of the disposition of the appeal.

If the FCO denies an appeal, the sub-grantee may submit a second appeal to the FEMA Regional Administrator; this appeal must be in writing and submitted through the GAR and FCO within 60-days after receipt of the denial of the first appeal. The FEMA Regional Administrator has 90-days in which to decide an appeal or request additional information. If the Regional Administrator denies the appeal, a third and final appeal may be made to the Regional Administrator within 60-days after receipt of the denial. The FEMA Regional Administrator has 90-days in which to decide on the appeal or request additional information. The Regional Administrator shall notify the GAR of the final disposition of the appeal.

When all PW in any project application have been completed, a project summary must be submitted by the sub-grantee to the GAR. State and federal inspectors will conduct a final inspection to verify the project's completion. Final inspection documents will then be prepared and forwarded to the FCO for the preparation of any closing documents.

Public Assistance will be handled using the Public Assistance Manual and forms from the state. Most PA grants will not be processed until insurance coordination with the appropriate carrier has been completed; the county must ensure early processing of insurance documents. The State Public Assistance Office will administer all public assistance grants, agreements, and contracts. Administrative staff will be responsible for providing technical assistance to eligible applicants and sub-grantees and for maintaining and submitting all documents and paperwork necessary to

obligate and disburse Public Assistance funds. This includes establishing a system for the processing of payments to sub-grantees and establishing and maintaining records for each payment draw down by the state and each payment to the sub-grantees.

Public Assistance County Applicants

All departments under the BCC must follow the procedures outlined in this plan. Constitutional officers, municipalities, other government agencies, and private non-profits may design criteria specifically for their agency. Agencies outside the control of the BCC must designate a Public Assistance Officer (PAO) in their agency to coordinate with PCDEM when filing a claim for reimbursement. They should file directly with FEMA for reimbursement. PCDEM maintains contact information for all eligible agencies within the Master Contact List. Table 30 includes a list of agencies identified as eligible applicants but does not intend to limit other non-profit agencies that have not been identified before a disaster. This list is continuously updated and maintained, particularly as new private non-profits emerge within the community.

Category	PA Eligible Applicants Eligible Applicants
County	Pasco County Board of County Commissioners Pasco County Property Appraiser's Office Pasco County Tax Collector's Office Pasco County Supervisor of Election's Office Pasco County Clerk and Comptroller's Office Pasco County Sheriff's Office
Municipalities	City of Dade City City of New Port Richey City of Port Richey City of San Antonio City of Zephyrhills Town of St. Leo
Governmental Entities	Mosquito Control Board Pasco County School Board Southwest Florida Water Management District Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Department of Juvenile Justice Baldomero Lopez Veteran's Nursing Home Pasco County Housing Authority Area Agency on Aging Department of Children and Families

Category	Eligible Applicants
Private Non-Profits	BayCare Health System
	Advent Health
	American Red Cross
	Salvation Army
	United Way
	Fresh Start for Pasco
	Coalition for the Homeless of Pasco County
	Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services
	The Center for Independence
	Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired and Blind
	Youth and Family Alternatives
	Boys and Girls Club of Pasco
	James P Gills YMCA
	A.F.I.R.E. of Pasco County
	The Angelus
	ACS
	Catholic Charities
	Community Aging and Retirement Services
	Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service of Florida
	Mid-Florida Community Services
	World Relief

Table 30

DEBRIS MANAGEMENT

The Debris Management Branch, staffed by Pasco County Solid Waste & Resource Recovery, oversees the removal of debris on county-owned property, after a disaster. If debris is on private property, the property owner will be responsible for proper disposal. If Pasco County is under an LSE, it is to the discretion of Solid Waste & Resource Recovery to waive solid waste fees.

Solid Waste & Resource Recovery maintains two contracts for debris removal and two contracts for debris monitoring. The Debris Management Branch will assess the status of debris after an event to determine if activation of these contracts is necessary. The contracts allow for the municipalities to pursue their own contracts with the County's contracted vendors to facilitate the debris management process.

Pre-designated burn sites, if needed, shall be identified by the Debris Management Branch, and operated with cooperation of the Fire Branch and local environmental officials. Methods for disposal of non-mulch-able debris shall be determined by the Public Works Branch, in conjunction with local and state environmental officials.

Following a disaster, the Debris Management Branch will ensure debris will be cleared according to established priorities. The initial priority is to remove any debris that obstructs search and rescue operations, as well as any debris that is a threat to life safety. After the debris hindering

search and rescue operations or posing a life safety risk has been cleared, clearance will be conducted on major transportation routes to allow the movement of emergency vehicles, supplies, resources, and traffic. After the restoration of the major transportation routes has been completed, debris will then be removed from collector roadways, residential and local roadways, and public parks. Debris clearance from county-maintained roads will be the responsibility of Pasco County Public Works. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is responsible for clearing debris from state and federal road in major arterial systems.

Debris Operations

Debris operations shall be performed and monitored in an efficient and effective manner, in accordance with the PA program requirements to ensure reimbursement. All necessary documentation, including labor logs, equipment and materials logs shall be completed by Field Supervisors or designees, and reviewed by the Debris Management Branch, daily. During the clearing and removal process photo evidence shall be preserved for reimbursement purposes.

The Solid Waste personnel are responsible for overseeing all active vendors to ensure that the debris collection is being performed up to standards and community complaints are being addressed. Debris removal is considered temporary work under FEMA PA and must be completed within six months of the event, or an extension must be requested.

Pasco County Solid Waste & Resource Recovery will work with the Public Information Officer to publish and advertise a survey link where citizens can report their address for debris collection. The survey will facilitate debris collection by allowing citizens to report the category of debris they are setting out to the curb. The PIO will work with PCDEM and Pasco County Solid Waste & Resource Recovery to create messaging outlining the type of debris that will be collected and procedures for sorting debris and putting it out to the curb. Tipping fees will be waived for citizens who choose to haul their debris directly disposal sites. Depending on the scale of the debris operation, the County may request pre-approval from FEMA to collect debris on private property that is posing a threat to public health and safety. Once approved, the County will utilize Right of Entry forms before collecting debris on private property, to include forms for individuals and private communities.

Debris collected shall be sorted by electronics, hazardous waste, construction and demolition, household garbage, and vegetative debris. Special considerations are in place for hazardous materials and white goods, to ensure they are properly handled and disposed of. Encouragement of separation prior to debris collection through public messaging will contribute to preventing contamination of debris loads and expediting the cleanup process. Additional information can be found in the Debris Management ICP.

The County has identified seven disaster debris management sites (DDMS) for temporary staging of disaster debris, outlined in Table 31. DDMS are requested through and approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). DEP provides guidelines for appropriate locations to develop DDMS to ensure human safety and preservation of the environment. Once the site has been inspected and approved DEP will issue an approval letter. The Debris Management Branch Director will ensure Florida Statute 403.7071 is followed for environmental considerations.

Disaster Debris Management Sites	
Location Name	Location Address
Pasco County Resource	14230 Hays Rd., Spring Hill, FL 34610
East Pasco LF	Auton Rd. & River Rd., Dade City, FL 33525
Enterprise LF & Recycle	41111 Enterprise Rd., Dade City, FL 33525
Baillies Bluff Road	2087 Baillies Bluff Rd., Holiday, FL 34691
Perrine Ranch Rd	5977 Perrine Ranch Rd., Holiday, FL 3469
Massachusetts DDMS Site	7223 Massachusetts Ave., New Port Richey, FL 34653
Denton Ave DDMS Site	11611 Denton Ave., Hudson, FL 34667

Table 31

COMMUNITY RESPONSE AND UNMET NEEDS COORDINATION

Through community response and recovery, the PCDEM Recovery Manager is responsible for coordinating tasks with the assigned State Response and Recovery Coordinators. The Recovery Manager coordinates with these regional liaisons to ensure clear and concise messaging between local and state agencies, to include requesting recovery resources and reporting community status and needs. The Recovery Manager shall maintain contact with the local LTRG and attend meetings as a representative of the County. The groups and organizations, to include faith-based organizations and private non-profits, that support the community's response needs can be found in the Community Resource Packet, maintained by the county LTRG.

The Recovery Manager and Community Services department, staffing the Deputy OSC Recovery and Deputy OSC Human Services positions, respectively, will work together with local officials to coordinate the provision of assistance to those with unmet needs in both declared and undeclared events. Unmet needs will be assessed through utilization of the Community Services Human Needs Assessment Tool, a survey that is pushed out to the community by the PIO, with door-to-door assessment options available through coordination with voluntary agencies. The Deputy OSC Human Services is the main point of contact responsible for connecting disaster survivors into the unmet needs process during the initial recovery period. As the County shifts into long-term recovery, the LTRG will assume responsibility for this function.

The Deputy OSC Human Services will utilize the list of DRC service providers, the faith-based community, community outreach programs, and municipalities to address the unmet needs of the community. The Deputy OSC Recovery will also ensure effective communication with other municipalities to avoid duplication of efforts and benefits. Representatives from municipalities are encouraged to attend regular LTRG meetings to ensure ongoing situational awareness of recovery status and processes. Specific community/human needs assessment procedures and responsibilities can be found in the Human Needs Assessment ICP.

EMERGENCY TEMPORARY HOUSING

The Temporary Housing Branch, staffed by Community Development, is responsible for coordinating the effective planning for temporary housing for the residents of Pasco County displaced by a disaster. The Temporary Housing Branch will work closely with state, federal, and local agencies under the auspices of the National Disaster Housing Framework to expedite any necessary processes to establish alternative, long-term housing options for displaced residents. Community Development will designate an individual as the local temporary Disaster Housing Coordinator to fulfill these functions.

The Housing Coordinator will work with other agencies with normal housing responsibilities including the Pasco County Housing Authority and Building Construction Services. Initial efforts will be made to encourage as many displaced individuals as possible to seek shelter with friends and relatives. That effort will be followed by establishing temporary housing on owner-occupied land, using hotels/rental units, establishing temporary housing on government-owned land, commercial land, or private land with the least desirable option establishing out-of-county temporary housing. Pasco County coordinates with State officials to collaborate on temporary housing solutions, to include taking advantage of State housing programs, such as Hope Florida. Any temporary housing established should be kept small and be as close as possible to the impacted community. Community Development will coordinate with Volunteers and Donations Unit and Deputy OSC Recovery to assist individuals with housing repairs to facilitate re-entry into homes.

The Deputy OSC Human Services will coordinate temporary shelters to accommodate displaced residents. The timeline may range from a few weeks up to 30-days post-disaster to allow residents to identify their own solutions for housing needs. If the need for emergency housing sites and mobile home sites arises, Community Development, working in conjunction with the Planning, Development, and Economic Growth, Real Property and Planning, Building Construction Services, GIS, FEMA, and partner agencies will implement searches for sites and resources.

Pasco County has a history of implementing innovative post-disaster housing solutions, to include in the 2024 hurricane season, when the County was impacted by two hurricanes in rapid succession, Hurricanes Helene and Milton. These storms caused widespread flooding in the County, both on the coast from storm surge and inland due to riverine and closed basin flooding, which led to widespread displacements. For the first 45 days following storm impact, Pasco County maintained two shelters, one on each the East and West sides of the county, while long-term solutions were developed. PCDEM worked with Facilities, Utilities, Public Works, Community Services, Catholic Charities, Duke Energy, WREC, and State partners to establish two temporary housing sites, fully supported by the County, that would be used to house displaced individuals and families. These sites are maintained by the County, with day-to-day operations and case management managed by Catholic Charities. These sites are intended to be transitioned into housing for Pasco's unhoused population as those displaced by these disasters find permanent housing solutions.

MITIGATION ANNEX

INTRODUCTION

Mitigation is the process which involves creating a series of actions aimed at reducing or eliminating risks to people and property from hazards and their impacts. These efforts focus on activities that prevent or lessen the effects of emergencies and disasters on individuals, property, and the environment. PCDEM mitigation team oversees federal grants as sub-applicants to homeowners and infrastructure of Pasco County. The LMS is a guiding document that allows the community to identify hazards, understand risks, set goals and objectives, and establish mitigation initiatives to reduce the effects of hazards and eliminate risks. The Mitigation Annex is organized to outline the county's LMS, Flood Task Force (FTF), mitigation funding, and the process of substantial damage determination through damage assessments.

Pasco County's mitigation capabilities are currently based on FEMA's mitigation strategy criteria. The State of Florida CEMP mitigation criterion includes requirements above and beyond FEMA mitigation strategy criteria. Table 32 provides a crosswalk between the State CEMP mitigation criteria and the LMS document for those CEMP elements which are sufficiently described in the LMS.

Location of CEMP Requirements in the LMS	
CEMP Requirement	Location in LMS
Hazard Mitigation Goals	Section VI: Mitigation Strategy
Hazard Mitigation Activities, Including NFIP Participation	Section V: Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (specifically hazard flood) Section VI: Mitigation Strategy Appendix C: Mitigation Strategy List of Projects
Structure And Infrastructure Vulnerability and Estimated Potential Damage	Section V: Hazard Identification Risk Assessment;
Active, Completed, and Deferred Mitigation Projects	Appendix C: Mitigation Strategy List of Projects
Mitigation Project Funding Sources	Section VI: Mitigation Strategy

Table 32

LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY

Mitigation is ongoing in Pasco County as described in the Multi-jurisdictional LMS. Preparation and development of the LMS is overseen by the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group (LMSWG) in coordination with the Mitigation Manager within the PCDEM. The LMSWG is composed of both recurring participants and interested parties, as defined in the LMS. Appendix A of the LMS and Figure 20 below contain a comprehensive list of all agencies and individuals participating in the LMS process.

Participating LMS Working Group Agency's



Figure 20

At a minimum of once per year, the Mitigation Manager requests updates to the LMS in preparation of the annual meeting. This includes sending the project list to everyone on the LMSWG for updates to projects currently included in the LMS and requesting eligible LMSWG members to submit new projects for inclusion on the LMS project list. The LMS Working Group convenes to finalize the revised project list and discuss any corrections, updates, or additions to information in the LMS each year in January.

Every five years, the LMS is revised in its entirety. Pasco County has a State and FEMA-approved Local Mitigation Strategy which expires on August 21, 2029. The approved LMS has been adopted by each jurisdiction participating in the plan and each jurisdiction can apply for mitigation grants to implement projects on the project list. Each jurisdiction manages its mitigation grants individually. Table 33 identifies the individual in each jurisdiction who would apply for mitigation grants.

Individual Responsible for Mitigation Grant Applications by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Responsible Party
Pasco County	County Emergency Management Mitigation Manager and Mitigation Coordinators

Jurisdiction	Responsible Party
Dade City	Public Works Director and City Engineer
New Port Richey	City Redevelopment Officer
Port Richey	City Clerk
San Antonio	City Clerk and/or County Emergency Management Mitigation Team
St. Leo	City Clerk and/or County Emergency Management Mitigation Team
Zephyrhills	Director of Development

Table 33

Flood Task Force

Pasco County created a FTF after flooding occurred in 2003/2004. This task force meets to provide updates on community meetings, review ongoing activities and projects, and coordinate efforts to resolve flooding issues. The FTF is organized by Pasco County's Stormwater Management and the PCDEM Mitigation Manager and CRS Coordinator involvement are encouraged for overall situational awareness. Pasco County joined the NFIP in 1981 and began participating in the CRS incentive program in 1992. The CRS program has three objectives: to reduce and prevent flood damage to insurable properties, to strengthen and support the insurance components of the NFIP, and to promote comprehensive floodplain management.

Mitigation Funding Opportunities

Mitigation project opportunities are assessed by county and city officials year-round in accordance with the Pasco County LMS. Mitigation funding is available through both pre-disaster and post-disaster federal grant programs. Following a Presidential disaster declaration or a notice of funding availability for pre-disaster programs, the PCDEM Mitigation Manager begins planning for the availability of mitigation funding.

Pasco County may request state and/or federal technical assistance for any functions requiring additional manpower and/or expertise not available in the county to include the development of FEMA mitigation grant applications. The Mitigation Manager works with the Pasco County OMB for additional match opportunities for projects in the unincorporated areas. The Mitigation Manager partners with the appropriate individual for projects within any of the six municipalities. Projects are chosen for submission to the state for funding consideration, and upon award the county enters into contractual agreements with the state and the recipient of the funds for the mitigation project. The Mitigation Manager oversees the implementation of the grant management procedures specified in the LMS throughout the project cycle.

SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE DETERMINATION

Emergency Management closely collaborates with the Local Floodplain Managers to identify and assess damage structures within Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) for substantial damage determination. Pasco Emergency Management Coordinates damage assessment trainings for the

building construction services team during the disaster preparedness phase and provides just in time trainings as needed in coordination with the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

The county's designated floodplain manager works within Building Construction Services. The county's floodplain manager has legal authority through statute and building code to uphold and implement certain floodplain standards. The State of Florida's floodplain manager works under the Mitigation Bureau in FDEM, acting as the liaison between federal and local government to certify compliance at the local level is being maintained.

PCDEM tracks the repetitive loss properties, which are typically at increased risk of sustaining substantial damage due to recurring property flooding. The department assists through management of mitigation grants that allow homeowners to bring their homes to current building standards, provides education on mitigation opportunities to meet the new codes, and coordinates all mitigation needs and inquiries that flow through emergency management.

Directly following any event with significant damage, the process begins with the coordination of damage assessment. The initial windshield assessment is first completed by the damage assessment team by using ArcGIS to label the houses as destroyed, major, minor, affected, or inaccessible. As participants in NFIP, the county is required to make substantial damage estimates. Utilizing this data allows building construction services to mark whether the property is or is not substantially damaged through a further detailed study. Each home identified as damage will be inspected through a full assessment to determine if the structure meets substantial improvement requirements as defined in Pasco Code of Ordinances Section 18-122.

Pasco Code of Ordinances Section 18-122 discusses Florida building code, local administrative amendments, local technical amendments, and flood damage prevention standards. Substantial improvement in the ordinance is defined as for flood compliance, as any combination of repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, alteration, addition, or other improvement to a building within a one-year period is considered a substantial improvement if the cumulative cost equals or exceeds 49% of the structure's pre-improvement market value. The one-year period begins when the first permit is issued and ends when the permit is closed. If the structure has sustained substantial damage, all repairs are considered substantial improvements, regardless of the actual work performed.

Following the inspections, the county will issue letters to properties where damage exceeds 49%. These letters will outline available options: bring the structure into compliance with code, demolish the structure, or provide documentation to demonstrate that the damage did not exceed 49% of the property's value. To proceed with reconstruction, property owners must follow the proper procedures, including obtaining the necessary permits.

The post-disaster permitting process does not change from the non-disaster process. The procedures/rules of construction still apply to the issuing of permits. However, following a disaster, BCS may establish temporary “pop-up” permit sites where residents can receive assistance with permits for repairs or rebuilding.

In previous instances, the process was expedited to assist the community with providing living accommodation to include recommending discretionary use in enforcement of RV regulations on residential property for a specified number of days and implementing a field-based process for issuing simple permits. Additionally, the county has previously waived all fees for home repair and building permits related to disaster recovery.

REFERENCES AND AUTHORITIES

STATE OF FLORIDA

CHAPTER 252, FLORIDA STATUTES

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

- Maintaining a comprehensive emergency management program that encompasses all governmental, private, and volunteer organizations with a role in emergency management.
- Preparing a comprehensive emergency management plan that is all-inclusive (i.e., evacuation activities) in preparation for any level of emergencies and catastrophic events.
- Maintaining an emergency management program that is designed to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster by the enforcement of policies and regulations.
- Coordinating mutual aid agreements inter-locally and among their surrounding jurisdictions.
- Implementing inter-state mutual aid agreements for assistance and reciprocal emergency aid in the event the situation is beyond a county's capability.
- Executing educational public awareness programs that are designed for all citizens including those who are hearing-impaired and non-English speaking.
- Maintaining an accurate account of the financial expenditures that are associated with disasters (including mobilized resources per mutual aid agreements).
- Organizing public information throughout an emergency.
- Developing procedures to receive and shelter citizens who reside within your jurisdiction and outside the designated area with assistance from the state.
- Operating and maintaining a 24-hour communication warning point.

STATUTES

- Florida Constitution, Article VII, Section 1(d) (provides fiscal authorities)
- Florida Statute, Chapter 23, Part 1, The Florida Mutual Aid Act
- Florida Statutes, Chapter 110, State Government Part IV, Volunteers
- Florida Statutes, Chapter 125, County Government, Part VI, Volunteers
- Chapter 154, Florida Statutes, Public Health Facilities
- Florida Statutes, Chapter 161, Beach and Shore Preservation, Part III, Coastal Zone Protection
- Florida Statutes, Chapter 163, Intergovernmental Programs, Part II, Growth Policy; County and Municipal Planning; Land Development Regulation

- Chapter 166, Florida Statutes, Municipalities (provides fiscal authorities)
- Florida Statutes, Chapter 215.555, Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (provides fiscal authorities)
- Chapter 235, Florida Statutes, Educational Facilities
- Chapter 245, Florida Statutes, Disposition of Dead Bodies
- Chapter 250, Florida Statutes, Military Affairs
- Florida Statutes, Chapter 252, Emergency Management, Part I - General Provisions
- Florida Statutes, Chapter 252, Emergency Management, Part II - Florida Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (provides fiscal authorities)
- Florida Statutes, Chapter 252, Emergency Management, Part III – Emergency Management Assistance Compact
- Florida Statutes, Chapter 252, Emergency Management, Part IV – Accidental Release Prevention and Risk Management Planning (provides fiscal authorities)
- Chapter 287, Florida Statutes, Procurement of Personal Property and Services (provides fiscal authorities)
- Florida Statutes, Chapter 376, Pollutant Discharge and Prevention and Removal
- Chapter 377, Florida Statutes, Energy Resources
- Florida Statutes, Chapter 380, Land and Water Management
- Chapter 381, Florida Statutes, Public Health: General Provisions
- Florida Statutes, Chapter 501.160, Rental or Sale of Essential Commodities During a Declared State of Emergency; Prohibition Against Unconscionable Prices (provides fiscal authorities)
- Florida Statutes, Chapter 768.13, Good Samaritan Act; Immunity from Civil Liability
- Florida Statutes, Chapter 943.0312, Regional Domestic Security Task Forces

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

- Executive Order No. 80-29, (Disaster Preparedness), dated April 14, 1980
- Executive Order No. 01-262, (Emergency Management), dated September 11, 2001
- Executive Order 01-300 (Domestic Security), dated October 11, 2001

FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

- Rule 9G-2, State of Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan Criteria
- Rule 9G-5, Local Disaster Preparedness Agencies Approval of Local Director
- Rule 9G-6, Review of Local Emergency Management Plans
- Rule 9G-7, Local Emergency Management Plans
- Rule 9G-11, Funding Formula for Emergency Management Assistance Funds (provides fiscal authorities)

- State of Florida Rule 9G-12, Contract Procedures for Funding of Radiological Emergency Response Plans (provides fiscal authorities)
- Rule 9G-13, Post-Disaster Redevelopment Rule
- Rule 9G-14, Hazardous Materials
- Rule 9G-17, Funding of County Hazardous Materials Emergency Plans (provides fiscal authorities)
- Rule 9G-18, Emergency Management Competitive Grant and Loan Program Rule (provides fiscal authorities)
- Rule 9G-19, Base Funding for County Emergency Management Agencies (CEMA), Emergency Management Competitive Grant Program and Municipal Competitive Grant Program Rule (provides fiscal authorities)
- Rule 9G-20, Residential Facility Plan Review Fees (provides fiscal authorities)
- Rule 9G-21, Hazardous Materials Risk Management Planning Fee Schedule (provides fiscal authorities)
- Rule 9G-22, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (provides fiscal authorities)
- Rule 9J-2, Rules of Procedure and Practice Pertaining to Development of Regional Impact
- Rule 9J-5, Minimum Criteria for Review of Local Government Comprehensive Plans and Plan Amendments, Evaluation and Appraisal Reports, Land Development Regulations and Determination of Compliance
- Rule 25-4, Telephone Companies
- Rule 25-6, Electric Service by Electric Public Utilities
- Rule 25-7, Gas Service by Gas Public Utilities
- Rule 25-10, Water and Sewer Systems
- Rule 25-24, Telephone Companies
- Rule 25-30, Water and Wastewater Utility Rules
- Rule 40E-62, Works and Lands of the District Management Plans

PLANS & PROCEDURES

- Florida National Guard, Operation Plan for Military Support to Civil Authorities (FLNG-MSCA) State of Florida Rapid Response Team Standard Operating Procedure
- State of Florida Emergency Response Team SOP
- State of Florida Regional Evacuation SOP
- State of Florida Resource and Financial Management Policies and Procedures for Emergency Management
- State of Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- State of Florida Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Statewide Emergency Shelter Plan

- State of Florida Mass Migration Plan
- State of Florida Radiological Emergency Plan
- State of Florida Recovery Plan
- State of Florida Unified Logistics Plan
- State Emergency Response Plan (FFCA)

PASCO COUNTY AND ITS SIX JURISDICTIONS

Florida Statute 252.38(2) authorizes and encourages municipalities to create municipal emergency management programs. Municipalities without programs are served by the county agency. Municipalities who chose to establish an emergency management program “must comply with all laws, rules, and requirements applicable to county emergency management agencies.” Additionally, “each municipal emergency management plan must be consistent with and subject to the applicable county emergency management plan.” If a municipality chooses to develop an emergency management plan under F.S. 252.38(2), the municipality must establish a full-time director and develop a complete comprehensive emergency management plan. However, if a municipality is unable to make the financial commitment to a full-time emergency management position, it is appropriate for the municipality to coordinate through the county emergency management agency and CEMP. No municipality in Pasco County has chosen to create a full-time emergency management program at this time, and the PCDEM supports all municipalities.

ORDINANCES

- Pasco County Resolution No. 83-110, May 31, 1983
- Pasco County Code of Ordinances, Section 2-101, Emergency Purchases (provides fiscal authorities)
- Pasco County Code of Ordinances, Section 18-23, Emergencies; Inspection and Measures to Secure or Protect Structures
- Pasco County Code of Ordinances, Sections 30-26 through 30-34, Disaster and Emergency Management (provides fiscal authorities)
- Pasco County Land Development Code, Section 1100, Special Development Standards
- Dade City Code of Ordinances, Section 30-31 through 30-38, Emergency Preparedness
- Dade City Code of Ordinances, Section 2-520. Emergency Purchases (provides fiscal authorities)
- New Port Richey Code of Ordinances, Section 2.14., and Emergency Ordinances (provides fiscal authorities)
- Port Richey Code of Ordinances, Section 2-68, Emergency Meetings

- Port Richey Code of Ordinances, Section 12-46 through 12-49, Emergency Management (provides fiscal authorities)
- Port Richey Code of Ordinances, Section 109-1 through 109-6, Flood Damage Prevention
- St. Leo Code of Ordinances, Section 3.13, Emergency Ordinances (provides fiscal authorities)

OTHER SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Local Mitigation Strategy
- Continuity of Operations Plans
- Asset Inventory
- Tampa Bay Regional Evacuation Study
- Position Specific Guides
- Interagency Coordinating Procedures

Hazard Specific Plans

- Cold Weather
- Flooding
- Hazardous Materials
- Severe Weather/Tornado
- Subsidence/Depression
- Hurricane
- Mass Casualty

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

- Municipality Interlocal Agreements
- Pasco County School Board and Pasco Sheriff's Office Interlocal Agreement
- Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement

FEDERAL

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

- 44 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Emergency Management and Assistance
- 50 CFR, Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations

PUBLIC LAW/PUBLIC ACTS

- Public Law 84-99, Flood Emergencies
- Public Law 85-256, Price-Anderson Act
- Public Law 89-665, National Historic Preservation Act

- Public Law 91-671, Food Stamp Act of 1964, in conjunction with Section 412 of the Stafford Act
- Public Law 93-234, The Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973
- Public Law 93-288, The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (provides fiscal authorities)
- Public Law 95-510, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA),
- Public Law 99-499, Superfund Amendments and Re-authorization Act of 1986, Part III, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986
- Public Law 104-321, Emergency Management Assistance Compact
- Public Law 106-390, Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000
- Public Law 109-59, The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act
- National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended by the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994
- Posse Comitatus Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1385
- Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (provides fiscal authorities)

PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVES

- Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5, Management of Domestic Incidents
- Presidential Policy Directive 21, Critical Infrastructure, Security, and Resilience
- Presidential Policy Directive 8, National Preparedness

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DIRECTIVES

- DoD Directive 3025.12, Military Assistance for Civil Disturbances
- DoD Directive 3025.15, Military Assistance to Civil Authorities

PLANS AND GUIDES

- The National Response Framework
- The National Disaster Recovery Framework
- The National Infrastructure Protection Plan
- USCG, Marine Safety Office, Tampa Area Contingency Plan for Oil and Hazardous Pollution Response
- Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide
- Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide
- Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operation Plans Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101
- Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and Stakeholder Preparedness Review Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 201

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

DEFINITIONS

Agency: A division of government with a specific function offering a kind of assistance. In the Incident Command System (ICS), agencies are defined either as jurisdictional (having statutory responsibility for incident management) or as assisting or cooperating (providing resources or other assistance). Governmental organizations are most often in charge of an incident, though in certain circumstances private-sector organization may be included. Additionally, non-governmental organizations may be included to provide support.

All-Hazards: Describing an incident, natural or manmade, that warrants action to protect life, property, environment, and public health or safety, and to minimize disruptions of government, social, or economic activities.

Area Command: An organization established to oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being handled by a separate Incident Command System organization or to oversee the management of a very large or evolving incident that has multiple incident management teams engaged. An agency administrator/executive or other public official with jurisdictional responsibility for the incident usually make the decision to establish an Area Command. An Area Command is activated only if necessary, depending on the complexity of the incident and incident management span-of-control considerations.

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

Assignment: A task given to a resource to perform within a given operational period.

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

Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ): Organization or agency with legal authority over a given type of incident (e.g., fire, EMS, Search & Rescue, HazMat); may change or overlap as incident changes, as where fire becomes arson investigation once danger is over, or Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) becomes police business after vehicle extrication, fire, and HazMat issues are complete.

Branch: The organizational level having functional or geographic responsibility for major aspects of incident operations. A branch is organizationally situated between the Situation Chief and the Division or Group in the Operations Section and between the Sections and Units in the Logistics Section. Branches are identified using Roman numerals or by functional area.

Catastrophic Incident: Any natural or manmade incident, including terrorism, which results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale, and/or government functions.

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

Chief: The Incident Command System (ICS) title for individuals responsible for management of functional sections: Operations, Planning, Logistics, Finance, and Intelligence/Investigations (if established as a separate Section).

Chief Elected Official: A Mayor, Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners, or a Constitutionally Elected Officer.

Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA): Evacuation zone for a Category 1 hurricane as determined by the Sea, Lake, and Overland Surge from Hurricanes (SLOSH) model and established in the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Hurricane Evacuation Study.

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

Command Staff: Those Incident Command positions with Public Information, Safety, and Liaison responsibilities.

Community Rating System (CRS): An initiative of the Federal Insurance Administration to encourage increased efforts in the reduction of flood losses, facilitate accurate insurance ratings, and promote the awareness of flood insurance.

Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP): The CEMP describes the concept of operations for integrating and synchronizing personnel, organizational structures, leadership, or management processes, facilities, and equipment to conduct emergency operations.

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

Coordinating Procedures: Supplements to the Basic Emergency Operating Plan (BEOP) which summarize concepts and provide quick reference guides tailored to the needs of different operations (i.e., hurricanes and hazardous materials).

Corrective Actions: Implementing procedures that are based on lessons learned from actual incidents or from training and exercises.

County Warning Point: The location that the state will contact in case of an emergency.

Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources (CI/KR): Systems, assets, and networks, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on security, economic security, public health or safety, or any combination of those matters.

Critical Facility: A “structure” from which essential services and functions for victim survival, continuation of public safety actions, and/or disaster recovery are performed or provided.

Development: The carrying out of any building activity or mining operation, the making of any material change in the use or appearance of any structure or land, or the dividing of land into three or more parcels.

Disaster: Any natural, technological, or man-made emergency that causes damage of enough severity and magnitude to result in a declaration of a state of emergency by a county, the Governor, or the President of the United States.

Disaster Recovery Center (DRC): A facility established in a centralized location within or near the disaster area at which disaster victims (individuals, families, or businesses) apply for disaster aid.

Division: The partition of an incident into geographical areas of operation. Divisions are established when the number of resources exceeds the manageable span of control of the Operations Chief.

Drainage: Surface water runoff or the removal of surface water or groundwater from land by drains, grading, or other means.

Emergency: Any incident, whether natural or manmade, that requires responsive action to protect life or property. Under the Robert T. Stafford Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, an emergency means any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the President, federal assistance is needed to supplement state and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States.

Emergency Alert System (EAS): A national relay and notification system for delivering emergency information to residents through broadcast media.

Emergency Management: The coordination and integration of all activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the capability to prepare for, protect against, responds to, recover from, or mitigate against threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other manmade disasters.

Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC): A congressionally ratified organization that provides form and structure to interstate mutual aid. Through EMAC, a disaster-affected state can request and receive assistance from other member states quickly and efficiently, resolving two-key issues up front: liability and reimbursement.

Emergency Manager: The person who has the day-to-day responsibility for emergency management programs and activities. The role is one of coordinating all aspects of a jurisdiction's mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities.

Emergency Operations Areas (EOA): Geographical areas delineated for response and recovery efforts which may be aligned with pre-existing local service areas to assist in managing search and rescue, debris clearance, military assistance, pre-staging of equipment, and resource support, etc.

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

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

Evacuation Routes: Routes designated by Pasco County Department of Emergency Management and/or the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council for the movement of persons to safety.

Evacuation Zones: Areas pre-designated by local emergency management officials as requiring evacuation for hazard vulnerability.

Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO): The official appointed by the President to execute Stafford Act authorities, including the commitment of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) resources and mission assignment of other federal departments or agencies. In all cases, the FCO represents the FEMA Administrator in the field to discharge all FEMA responsibilities for the

response and recovery efforts underway. For Stafford Act events, the FCO is the primary federal representative with whom the State Coordinating Officer (SCO) and other state, tribal, and local response officials interface to determine the most urgent needs and set objectives for an effective response in collaboration with the Unified Coordination Group.

First Responders: Those individuals who, in the early stages of an incident, are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response providers as defined in Section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101), as well as emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel (such as equipment operators) that provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations.

Finance/Administration Section: (1) Incident Command: Section responsible for all administrative and financial considerations surrounding an incident; (2) Joint Field Office (JFO): Section responsible for the financial management, monitoring, and tracking of all federal costs relating to the incident and the functioning of the JFO while adhering to all federal laws and regulations.

Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM): The official map of a community on which FEMA has delineated both the special hazard areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

Force Account: County or city labor resources.

General Staff: A group of incident management personnel organized according to function and reporting to the Incident Commander. The General Staff normally consists of the Operations Section Chief, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, and Finance/Administration Section Chief. An Intelligence/Investigations Chief may be established, if required, to meet incident management needs.

Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR): An individual empowered by a Governor to: (1) execute all necessary documents for disaster assistance on behalf of the state, including certification of applications for public assistance; (2) represent the Governor on behalf of the impacted state in the Unified Coordination Group when required; (3) coordinate and supervise the state disaster assistance program to include serving as its grant administrator; and (4) identify, in coordination with the State Coordinating Officer, the state's critical information needs for incorporation into a list of Essential Elements of Information.

Group: Established to divide the incident management structure into functional areas of operation. Groups are composed of resources assembled to perform a special function not

necessarily within a single geographic division. Groups, when activated, are located between branches and resources in the Operations Section.

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

Hazard Mitigation: The process of potential improvements that would reduce or remove the hazard vulnerability.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP): This post-disaster grant program, authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, is designed to implement immediate and long-term hazard mitigation measures.

Hazardous Material: Any substance or material in a quantity or form which may be harmful to humans, animals, crops, water systems, or other elements of the environment if accidentally released. Hazardous materials include explosives, gases (compressed, liquefied, or dissolved), flammable and combustible liquids, flammable solids or substances, oxidizing substances, poisonous and infectious substances, radioactive materials, and corrosives.

Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP): A capabilities and performance-based exercise program that provides a standardized methodology and terminology for exercise design, development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning.

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

Hurricane Season: The six-month period from June 1st through November 30th is considered to be the hurricane season.

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

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

Incident Command: Entity responsible for overall management of the incident. Consists of the Incident Commander, either single or unified command, and any assigned supporting staff.

Incident Command Post (ICP): The field location where the primary functions are performed. The ICP may be co-located with the incident base or other incident facilities.

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

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

Incident Management: Refers to how incidents are managed across all homeland security activities, including prevention, protection, response, and recovery.

Incident Management Team (IMT): An incident command organization made up of the Command and General Staff members and appropriate functional units of an Incident Command System organization. The level of training and experience of the IMT members, coupled with the identified formal response requirements and responsibilities of the IMT, are factors in determining the “type” or level of IMT. IMTs are generally grouped in five types: Types I and II are national teams, Type IIIs are state or regional, Type IVs are discipline- or large jurisdiction-specific, and Type Vs are ad hoc incident command organizations typically used by smaller jurisdictions.

Individual Assistance: Is provided to individuals and private businesses in the form of grants and low interest loans by the federal government.

Intelligence/Investigations: Different from operational and situational intelligence gathered and reported by the Planning Section. Intelligence/Investigations gathered within the Intelligence/Investigations function is information that either leads to the detection, prevention, apprehension, and prosecution of criminal activities (or the individual(s) involved), including

terrorist incidents, or information that leads to determination of the cause of a given incident (regardless of the source) such as public health events or fires with unknown origins.

Interoperability: The ability of emergency management/response personnel to interact and work well together. In the context of technology, interoperability also refers to having an emergency communications system that is the same or is linked to the same system that a jurisdiction uses for nonemergency procedures, and that effectively interfaces with national standards as they are developed. The system should allow the sharing of data with other jurisdictions and levels of government during planning and deployment.

Interoperable Communications: The ability of emergency response providers and relevant federal, state, and local government agencies to communicate with each as necessary through a dedicated public safety network utilizing information technology systems and radio communications systems, and to exchange voice, data, or video with one another on demand, in real time as necessary.

Job Aid: A checklist or other visual aid intended to ensure that specific steps for completing a task or assignment are accomplished.

Joint Field Office (JFO): The primary federal incident management field structure. The JFO is a temporary federal facility that provides a central local for the coordination of federal, state, tribal, and local governments, private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations with primary responsibility for response and recovery. The JFO structure is organized, staffed, and managed in a manner consistent with *National Incident Management System* principles and is led by the Unified Coordination Group. Although the JFO uses an Incident Command System structure, the JFO does not manage on-scene operations. Instead, the JFO focuses on providing support to on-scene efforts and conducting broader support operations that may extend beyond the incident site.

Joint Information Center (JIC): An interagency entity established to coordinate and disseminate information for the public and media concerning an incident. JICs may be established locally, regionally, or nationally depending on the size and magnitude of the incident.

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

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

Local Government: A county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under state law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government.

Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS): Plan developed to minimize negative impacts (potential loss of life or property damage) from a natural or technological disaster.

Local State of Emergency (LSE): A governmental declaration that may suspend certain normal functions of government, alert citizens to alter their normal behaviors, or order government agencies to implement emergency preparedness plans. It can also be used as a rationale for suspending civil liberties. Such declarations usually come during a time of natural disaster, during periods of civil disorder, or following a declaration of war (in democratic countries, may call this martial law, most with non-criminal intent).

Logistics Section: (1) Incident Command: Section responsible for providing facilities, services, and material support for the incident. (2) Joint Field Office (JFO): Section that coordinates logistics support to include control of and accountability for federal supplies and equipment; resource ordering; delivery of equipment, supplies, and services to the JFO and other field locations; facility location, setup, space management, building services, and general facility operations; transportation coordination and fleet management services; information and technology systems services; administrative services such as mail management and reproduction; and customer assistance.

Logistical Staging Area (LSA): An area established to receive, classify, and account for emergency relief and sustained supplies and goods solicited.

Long-Term Temporary Housing: Tents, mobile homes, suitable rental housing, or other readily fabricated dwellings set up for residents to live in before they can return to their own homes or find a new home. Utilization of this type of housing can last up to two weeks or longer.

Long-Term Recovery: A process of recovery that may continue for several months or years, depending on the severity and extent of the damage sustained. For example, long-term recovery may include the complete redevelopment of damaged areas.

Major Disaster: Under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high-water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought) or regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion in any part of the United States that, in the determination of the President, causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant

major disaster assistance under the Stafford Act to supplement the efforts and available resources of states, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.

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

Manmade Emergency: An emergency caused by an action against persons or society, including, but not limited to, enemy attack, sabotage, civil unrest, or other action impairing the orderly administration of government.

Minor Disaster: A disaster that is likely to be within the response capabilities of local government and to result in only a minimal need for state or federal assistance.

Mission Assignment: The mechanism used to support state or federal operations in a disaster or emergency declaration. It orders immediate, short-term emergency response assistance when an applicable state or local government is overwhelmed by the event and lacks the capacity to perform or contract for the necessary work.

Mitigation: Activities providing a critical foundation in the effort to reduce the loss of life and property from natural and/or manmade disasters by avoiding or lessening the impact of a disaster and providing value to the public by creating safer communities. Mitigation seeks to fix the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. These activities or actions, in most cases, will have a long-term sustained effect.

Mobile Home: Residential structure that is transportable in one or more sections, which structure is 8 body feet (2.4 meters) or more in width, over 35 feet in length with the hitch, built on an integral chassis, and designed to be used as a dwelling when connected to the required utilities, and it includes the plumbing, heating, air-conditioning, and electrical systems contained in the structure.

Mobile Home Park: Place set aside and offered by a person, for either direct or indirect remuneration of the owner, lessor, or operator of such place, for the parking, accommodation, or rental of five or more mobile homes.

Mobilization: The processes and procedures used by all organizations – federal, state, tribal, and local – for activating, assembling, and transporting all resources that have been requested to support or respond to an incident.

Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group: Typically, administrators/executives or their appointed representatives who are authorized to commit agency resources and funds who are brought

together and form MAC Groups. MAC Groups may also be known as multiagency committees, emergency management committees, or as otherwise defined by the system. A MAC Group can provide coordinated decision-making and resource allocation among cooperating agencies and may establish the priorities among incidents, harmonize agency policies, and provide strategic guidance and direction to support incident management activities.

Multi-Agency Coordination System(s) (MACs): Multiagency coordination systems provide the architecture to support coordination for incident prioritization, critical resource allocation, communications systems integration, and information coordination. The elements of multiagency coordination systems include facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications. Two of the most commonly used elements are emergency operations centers and MAC Groups. These systems assist agencies and organizations responding to an incident.

Multijurisdictional Incident: An incident requiring action from multiple agencies where each have jurisdiction to manage certain aspects of the incident. In the Incident Command System, these incidents will be managed under Unified Command.

Mutual Aid Agreement: Written or oral agreement between and among agencies/organizations and/or jurisdictions that provides a mechanism to quickly obtain emergency assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, materials, and other associated services. The primary objective is to facilitate rapid, short-term deployment of emergency support prior to, during, and/or after an incident.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): A federal program which authorizes the sale of federally subsidized flood insurance in communities that agrees to adopt and implement flood mitigation strategies and regulations.

National Incident Management System (NIMS): System that provides a proactive approach guiding government agencies at all levels, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work seamlessly to prepare for, prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity, in order to reduce the loss of life or property and harm to the environment.

National Infrastructure Coordinating Center (NICC): As part of the National Operations Center, monitors the nation's critical infrastructure and key resources on an ongoing basis. During an incident, the NICC provides a coordinating forum to share information across infrastructure and key resources sectors through appropriate information-sharing entities.

National Response Framework (NRF): Guides how the nation conducts all-hazard response. The *Framework* documents the key response principles, roles, and structures that organize national

response. It describes how communities, states, the federal government, and private-sector, and nongovernmental partners apply these principles for a coordinated, effective national response. It also describes special circumstances where the federal government exercises a larger role, including incidents where federal interests are involved along with catastrophic incidents where a state would require significant support. It allows first responders, decision-makers, and supporting entities to provide a unified national response.

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

Non-Governmental Organization (NGO): An entity with an association that is based on the interests of its members, individuals, or institutions. It is not created by a government, but it may work cooperatively with government. Such organizations serve a public purpose, not a private benefit. Examples of NGOs include faith-based charity organizations and the American Red Cross. NGOs, including voluntary and faith-based groups, provide relief services to sustain life, reduce physical and emotional distress, and promote the recovery of disaster victims. Often these groups provide specialized services that help individuals with disabilities. NGOs and voluntary organizations play a major role in assisting emergency managers before, during, and after an emergency.

Officer: The ICS title for the personnel responsible for the Command Staff positions of Safety, Liaison, and Public Information.

Operations Section: (1) Incident Command: Responsible for all tactical incident operations and implementation of the Incident Action Plan (IAP). In the Incident Command System, it normally includes subordinate branches, divisions, and/or groups. (2) Joint Field Office: Coordinates operational support with on-scene incident management efforts. Branches, divisions, and groups may be added or deleted as required, depending on the nature of the incident. The Operations Section is also responsible for coordinating with other federal facilities that may be established to support incident management activities.

Planning Section: (1) Incident Command: Section responsible for the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of operational information related to the incident and for the preparation and documentation of the Incident Action Plan (IAP). This Section also maintains information on the current and forecasted situation and on the status of resources assigned to the incident. (2) Joint Field Office: Section that collects, evaluates, disseminates, and uses information regarding the threat or incident and the status of federal resources. The Planning Section prepares and documents federal support actions and develops unified action, contingency, long-term, and other plans.

Points of Distribution (POD): Locations where food, water, and other supplies will be given directly to residents. Distribution Points may be in parking lots or open fields in the disaster area, as close to victims as possible.

Post-Disaster Recovery: Long-term activity designed to return life to normal or improved levels following a disaster.

Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA): Begins immediately after disaster impact, determines whether more detailed damage assessments are necessary, and identifies those areas where further efforts should be concentrated.

Preparedness: Actions that involve a combination of planning, resources, training, exercising, and organizing to build, sustain, and improve operational capabilities. Preparedness is the process of identifying the personnel, training, and equipment needed for a wide range of potential incidents and developing jurisdiction-specific plans for delivering capabilities when needed for an incident.

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

Private Sector: Organizations and entities that are not part of any governmental structure. The private sector includes for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, formal, and informal structures, commerce, and industry.

Protocol: A set of established guidelines for actions (which may be designated by individuals, teams, functions, or capabilities) under various specified conditions.

Public Assistance: The reimbursement and emergency assistance provided to state and local governments and private non-profit entities from the federal government.

Public Facilities: Transportation systems or facilities, sewer systems or facilities, solid waste systems or facilities, drainage systems or facilities, potable water systems or facilities, educational systems or facilities, parks and recreation systems or facilities, and public health systems or facilities.

Public Information: Processes, procedures, and systems for communicating timely, accurate, accessible information on an incident's cause, size, and current situation; resources committed; and other matters of general interest to the public, responders, and additional stakeholders (both directly and indirectly affected).

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

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

Recreational Vehicle (RV): Vehicle-type unit primarily designed as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use which either has its own motive power or is mounted on or drawn by another vehicle.

Recreational Vehicle Park: Place set aside and offered by a person, for either direct or indirect remuneration of the owner, lessor, or operator of such place, for the parking, accommodation, or rental of five or more recreational vehicles or tents; and the group camping and similar recreational facilities.

Resource Management: A system for identifying available resources at all jurisdictional levels to enable timely and unimpeded access to resources needed to prepare for, respond to, or recover from an incident. Resource management includes mutual aid and assistance agreements, the use of special federal, state, tribal, and local teams and resource mobilization protocols.

Resources: Personnel and major items of equipment, supplies, and facilities available or potentially available for assignment to incident operations and for which status is maintained. Under the *National Incident Management System (NIMS)*, resources are described by kind and type and may be used in operational support or supervisory capacities at an incident or at an emergency operations center.

Response: Immediate action to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs. Response also includes the execution of emergency plans and actions to support short-term recovery.

Satellite Communications System (SATCOM): The 24-hour, dedicated satellite communications link between the State EOC (SEOC) and the 67 counties, 6 local weather forecast offices, and 14 key, local media outlets.

Secretary of Homeland Security: Serves as the principal federal official for domestic incident management, which includes coordinating both federal operations within the United States and federal resources used in response to or recovery from terrorist attacks, major disasters, or other emergencies. The Secretary of Homeland Security is by Presidential directive and statutory authority also responsible for coordination of federal resources utilized in the prevention of, preparation for, response to, or recovery from terrorist attacks, major disasters, or other emergencies, excluding law enforcement responsibilities otherwise reserved to the Attorney General.

Section: The organizational level having responsibility for a major functional area of incident management (e.g., Operations, Planning, Logistics, Finance/Administration, and Intelligence/Investigations (if established)).

Shelter In-Place: Means that residents will be advised to remain in their homes with the windows closed and all open-air circulation systems turned off.

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

Short-Term Recovery: A process of recovery that is immediate and overlaps with response. It includes such actions as providing essential public health and safety services, restoring interrupted utility and other essential services, re-establishing transportation routes, and providing food and shelter for those displaced by a disaster. Although called “short-term,” some of these activities may last for weeks.

Situation Report: Document that contains confirmed or verified information and explicit details (who, what, where, and how) relating to an incident.

Situational Awareness: The ability to identify, process, and comprehend the critical elements of information about an incident.

Span of Control: The number of resources for which a supervisor is responsible, usually expressed as the ratio of supervisors to individuals.

Special Needs Population: The portion of the population, who during periods of evacuation, either mandatory or voluntary, will require assistance that exceeds the basic level of care

provided at the general population shelter but will not require the level of skilled medical care provided at institutional facilities. Special needs include people with disabilities, minority groups, people who do not speak English, children, and the elderly. In practice, the term also includes people who live in poverty or on public assistance; people without private transportation or who rely on public transportation; and people who rely on caregivers for assistance in daily living and would need similar assistance in an emergency and who live independently or with the caregiver(s) in homes, assisted living housing, nursing homes, supervised group homes, hospitals and other healthcare facilities. These groups represent a large and complex variety of concerns and challenges.

Stafford Act: The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended. This Act describes the programs and processes by which the federal government provides disaster and emergency assistance to state and local governments, tribal nations, eligible private non-profit organizations, and individuals affected by a declared major disaster or emergency. The Stafford Act covers all hazards, including natural disasters and terrorist events.

Staging Area: Any locations in which personnel, supplies, and equipment can be temporarily housed or parked while awaiting operational assignment.

State Coordinating Officer (SCO): Individual appointed by the Governor to coordinate state disaster assistance efforts with those of the federal government. The SCO plays a critical role in managing the state response and recovery operations following Stafford Act declarations. The Governor of the affected state appoints the SCO, and lines of authority flow from the Governor to the SCO, following the state's policies and laws.

State Emergency Response Team (SERT): Coordinates State of Florida response and recovery functions through seventeen Emergency Support Functions (ESFs).

Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (SMAA) for Disaster Response and Recovery: Chief agreement between counties and the state for providing mutual aid assistance, which details request and reimbursement procedures.

Status Report: Relays information specifically related to the status of resources (e.g., availability or assignment of resources).

Storm Surge: Offshore rise of water associated with a low pressure weather system, typically a tropical cyclone. Storm surge is caused primarily by high winds pushing on the ocean's surface. The wind causes the water to pile up higher than the ordinary sea level. Low pressure at the center of a weather system also has a small, secondary effect, as can the bathymetry of the body

of water. It is this combined effect of low pressure and persistent wind over a shallow water body which is the most common cause of storm surge flooding problems.

Stormwater: Flow of water resulting from a rainfall event.

Strategy: General plan or direction selected to accomplish incident objectives.

Supporting Agency: Agency that provides support and/or resource assistance to another agency.

Tactics: Deploying and directing resources on an incident to accomplish the objectives designated by the strategy.

Target Capabilities List: Defines specific capabilities that all levels of government should possess in order to respond effectively to incidents.

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

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

Threat: Indication of possible violence, harm, or danger.

Tornado: Wind funnel which may be formed by severe thunderstorms, most frequently in the spring and summer. A tornado can travel for miles along the ground, lift, and suddenly change direction and strike again.

Tropical Storm: Area of low pressure with a definite eye and counterclockwise winds of 39 – 74 mph. A tropical storm may strengthen to hurricane force in a short period of time.

Unified Command (UC): Incident Command System application used when more than one agency has incident jurisdiction or when incidents cross political jurisdictions. Agencies work together through designated members of the UC, often the senior person from agencies and/or disciplines participating in the UC, to establish a common set of objectives and strategies and a single Incident Action Plan (IAP).

Unity of Command: Principle of management stating that everyone involved in incident operations will be assigned to only one supervisor.

Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI): U.S. Department of Homeland Security Grant Program to support the planning, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas around the country.

Volunteer: Individual accepted to perform services by the lead agency (which has authority to accept volunteer services) when the individual performs services without promise, expectation, or receipt of compensation for services performed. See 16 U.S.C. 742f(c) and 29 CFR 553.101.

Wetlands: Areas that are inundated or saturated by water or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AA	Agency Administrator(s)
AAR	After-Action-Report
ACA	Assistant County Administrator
ACS	Auxiliary Communications Services
AFG	Assistance to Firefighters Grant
AHJ	Authorities Having Jurisdiction
ARC	American Red Cross
AVL	Automated Vehicle Locator
BCC	Board of County Commissioners
BCS	Building Construction Services
CAD	Computer Aided Dispatch
CAP	Corrective Action Plan
CAP-SSSE	Community Assistance Program State Support Services Element
CBP	County Business Patterns
CBRNE	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, & Explosive
CDC	Center for Disease Control
CDL	Community Disaster Loans
CDMA	Code Division Multiple Access
CEMP	Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
CERT	Citizen Emergency Response Team
CHHA	Coastal High Hazard Area
CI/KR	Critical Infrastructure & Key Resources
CJIS	Criminal Justice Information System
CoC	Continuum of Care
COOP	Continuity of Operations Plan
CPG	Comprehensive Preparedness Guide
CRS	Community Rating System
CSA	County Staging Area
CWP	County Warning Point
DDMS	Disaster Debris Management Site
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
DMZ	Demilitarized Zone
DOH	Department of Health
DRC	Disaster Recovery Center
EAS	Emergency Alert System
ECC	Emergency Communications Center

ELAMP	Environmental Lands Acquisition & Management Program
EMAC	Emergency Management Assistance Compact
EMPA	Emergency Management Preparedness & Assistance
EMPG	Emergency Management Performance Grant
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EOA	Emergency Operations Area
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EPG	Executive Policy Group
ESF	Emergency Support Function
F.S.	Florida Statutes
F.A.C.	Florida Administrative Code
FCO	Federal Coordinating Officer
FCT	Florida Communities Trust
FDEM	Florida Division of Emergency Management
FDOH	Florida Department of Health
FDOT	Florida Department of Transportation
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FEPA	Florida Emergency Preparedness Association
FHP	Florida Highway Patrol
FIN	Florida Interoperability Network
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FMA	Flood Mitigation Assistance
FSC	Finance Section Chief
FTC	Florida Communities Trust
FTF	Flood Task Force
GAR	Governor's Authorized Representative
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOPASCO	Pasco County Public Transportation
HMGP	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
HNAT	Human Needs Assessment Team
HSEEP	Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program
HSGP	Homeland Security Grant Program
IA	Individual Assistance
IAEM	International Association of Emergency Management
IAP	Incident Action Plan
IC	Incident Command
ICMA	International City/County Management Association
ICP	Incident Command Post

ICS	Incident Command System
IDA	Initial Damage Assessment
ILA	Interlocal Agreement
IMT	Incident Management Team
IPAWS	Integrated Public Alert & Warning System
IPP	Integrated Preparedness Plan
IT	Information Technology
JFO	Joint Field Office
JIC	Joint Information Center
LMS	Local Mitigation Strategy
LMSWG	Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group
LNO	Liaison Officer
LSA	Logistical Staging Area
LSC	Logistics Section Chief
LSE	Local State of Emergency
LTRG	Long Term Recovery Group
MACS	Multi-Agency Coordination System
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRF	National Response Framework
NWS	National Weather Service
OMB	Office of Management & Budget
OSC	Operations Section Chief
PA	Public Assistance
PAO	Public Assistance Officer
PAPPG	Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide
PART	Pasco Animal Response Team
PBS WARN	Public Broadcasting Service – Warning, Alert & Response Network
PCDEM	Pasco County Department of Emergency Management
PCDES-911	Pasco County Department of Emergency Services (911)
PCFR	Pasco County Fire Rescue
PCPT	Pasco County Public Transportation
PDA	Preliminary Damage Assessment
PIO	Public Information Officer
PNP	Private Non-Profit
POD	Point of Distribution

PRNR	Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources
PSA	Public Service Announcement
PSC	Planning Section Chief
PSG	Position Specific Guides
PSO	Pasco Sheriff's Office
PW	Project Worksheet
RDSTF	Regional Domestic Security Task Force
RFA	Request for Assistance
RIC	Resident Information Center
RPA	Request for Public Assistance
RSA	Resource Support Agreement
RV	Recreational Vehicle
SAA	State Administrative Agency
SAFER	Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response
SAR	Search & Rescue
SATCOM	Satellite Communications
SBA	Small Business Administration
SCO	State Coordinating Officer
SERT	State Emergency Response Team
SFHA	Special Flood Hazard Area
SMAA	Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement
SO	Safety Officer
SPNS	Special Needs
SPNSEP	Special Needs Evacuation Program
SWFWMD	South Florida Water Management District
SWMAA	Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement
SWO	State Watch Office
TECO	Tampa Electric Company
UASI	Urban Area Security Initiative
UC	Unified Command/Unemployment Compensation
US&R	Urban Search & Rescue
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VPN	Virtual Private Network
WEA	Wireless Emergency Alerts
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction
WREC	Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative

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RECORD OF REVISIONS

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