

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
Volunteer Florida and Florida CERT Association

Purpose:

Volunteer Florida and Florida CERT Association (CERT - Community Emergency Response Team) jointly enter this Memorandum of Understanding to provide mutual support of Emergency Support Function (ESF) 15 Volunteers and Donations at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), Joint Field Office (JFO) and in communities impacted by disasters during response and recovery operations. This agreement will improve the ability of our agencies to assist disaster survivors; utilize volunteers and donations; and ensure the success of ESF 15.

Nothing in this MOU shall be construed to impose on either party or the State of Florida any additional liability. Any provision of the MOU that is inconsistent with the State's sovereign immunity statutes shall be considered null and void. Each party agrees to assume its own liability and responsibility for the acts, omission, or conduct of such Party's own employees or agents in relation to this MOU, subject to the provisions of Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, where applicable, and subject to other relevant State law.

Florida CERT Association:

The purpose of the organization:

1. To support education in disaster response
2. To increase community awareness of disaster preparedness
3. To assist government agencies that may request volunteer services in any capacity
4. To maintain contact with other Emergency Management related organizations; and
5. To provide coordination of CERT Conferences within the state.

In the spirit of a Community Organization Active in Disaster, our mission is to adhere to the following values:

1. Communication: among CERT organizations and the public, as well as local, state and federal authorities, as appropriate.
2. Cooperation: unity at all levels of disaster.
3. Collaboration: Dedicated to working together to achieve common goals and activities relative to disasters.
4. Coordination: Meet objectives through systematic analysis, and development of relevant information and resources.
5. Education: Provide training and information as requested around the state.
6. Mitigation: Support the mitigation efforts of local, state, and federal authorities; educate residents and representatives about actions they can take to protect individuals, property, the environment and the economy from the effects of disaster.
7. Outreach: Encourage the formation of and provide guidance to others wishing to establish CERT organizations.

Current membership 126 (2016-2017)

Under the Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), Volunteer Florida is the lead agency for ESF 15 Volunteers and Donations. Florida CERT Association agrees to serve as an ESF 15 Support Organization and will be recognized as such in the state CEMP; provided, however, that such recognition does not preclude the participation of Florida CERT Association in other critical and appropriate Emergency Support Functions.

It is understood that Volunteer Florida will:

1. Notify Florida CERT Association when the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) activates the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and Joint Field Office (JFO) and provide updates on activities as necessary;
2. Coordinate Florida CERT Association deployment to impacted or requesting counties, contingent on the scope of the event/disaster.
3. Provide working space at the SEOC and/or the JFO, if Florida CERT Association services are requested by ESF 15;
4. Assist Florida CERT Association to apply for any available reimbursement for disaster related expenses for which Florida CERT Association may qualify;
5. Notify Florida CERT Association of ESF 15 and Florida Division of Emergency Management meetings, training and other related activities;
6. Inform Florida CERT Association of opportunities to participate in new emergency management and homeland security programs;
7. Solicit input from Florida CERT Association regarding ESF 15 plans and operations;
8. Update Florida CERT Association on any changes in Volunteer Florida ESF 15 personnel or contact information;

It is understood that Florida CERT Association will:

1. Notify Volunteer Florida/ESF 15 of any in or out of state disaster deployments of staff and resources, and submit situation reports that may include the location(s) and the type(s) of services and resources being provided, and numbers of volunteers involved.
2. Provide services in coordination with ESF 15 and other Emergency Support Functions as appropriate, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Search and Rescue
 - b. Medical Triage and Treatment
 - c. Fire Suppression
 - d. Cribbing
 - e. Other services requested by Volunteer Florida and/or Emergency Services
3. Provide a liaison at the SEOC and/or JFO if available and requested by ESF 15, and cover expenses incurred by such deployment;
4. During Florida activations, submit regular volunteer and donations reports to State ESF 15. Form and instructions appropriate to each event/disaster will be provided;
5. Develop relationships with local emergency management to facilitate the provision of services listed in #2 above;

6. Inventory the capabilities and resources of Florida CERT Association in times of disaster and provide that information to ESF 15;
7. Complete the online contact information form for the Florida CERT Association point of contact and update this information within 10 days after any contact information changes;
8. Encourage Florida CERT Association paid and volunteer disaster personnel to take and become certified in the appropriate levels of National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) training, per the attached Voluntary Agency Training Recommendations bulletin;
9. Participate in ESF 15 and FDEM sponsored training events and other meetings, particularly the annual Governor's Hurricane Conference.
10. Participate in reviews of the ESF 15 Volunteers and Donations Annex and Standard Operating Guidelines as needed;

This Memorandum of Understanding will take effect upon the date it is signed by representatives of both organizations. Either party may terminate this agreement upon the provision of 90 days written notice to the other party. This agreement may be amended at any time, in writing and signed by both parties.

Chester Spellman
Chief Executive Officer, Volunteer Florida

Date

James Cunningham
President, Florida CERT Association

Date