

## **Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness System Resources by Capability, November 2011**

The goal of the Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness System is to minimize illness, injury and loss of life to residents and visitors of Florida due to disasters. The system achieves this goal through developing and sustaining critical capabilities which enhance the Florida Department of Health's ability to prevent, respond to and recover from disasters of all types. Having viable public health and health care capabilities are part of an integrated domestic security and emergency management system.

The web-based resources listed below provide an overview of the key components of the Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness System. The capabilities are organized by the draft of the 2012-14 Public Health and Health Care Preparedness Strategic Plan Framework. For additional information on these and other Florida resources, please contact the Florida Department of Health Bureau of Preparedness and Response at [BureauofPrep&Resp@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:BureauofPrep&Resp@doh.state.fl.us) or by calling (850) 245-4040.

### **Goal #1 – Preparedness & Information Management**

#### **Risk Management**

The Florida [Domestic Security Strategic Plan](#) establishes our coordinated capability to prepare, prevent, protect, respond and recover from all hazards through interdisciplinary and interagency consensus and commitment to build and rely upon a strong regional collaboration.

Each November, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement provides the [Domestic Security Annual Report](#) to the Legislature. The Annual Report documents Florida's domestic security governance structure, highlights accomplishments during the previous year, and provides grant award information for the calendar year.

The [Public Health and Healthcare Preparedness \(PHHP\) Strategic Plan](#) provides a roadmap for prioritizing and allocating resources to build and sustain critical capabilities. The alignment of the PHHP Strategic Plan with the Domestic Security Strategy leverages the use of available preparedness funding to close gaps and minimize duplication of effort. Florida has adopted and adapted the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's [DHS National Preparedness Guidelines](#), [DHS Target Capabilities](#), and [National Health Security Strategy](#) and is well positioned to fully integrate the [CDC Public Health Preparedness Capabilities](#) into the system.

Florida's [PHHP Strategic Planning](#) process is implemented using a [capability-based team structure](#) to engage state and local subject matter experts. The PHHP Strategic Plan Oversight Team (SPOT) serves as the state's Strategic Advisory Committee. The programs and projects necessary to implement the strategic plan goals, objectives and strategies are coordinated by using a Program Management methodology, based on [PMBOK® Standards](#).

Several state laws guide the development of Florida's system: [Sections 252.31 – 252.61](#) provide emergency authorities for the Governor and the Department of Emergency Management; [Sections 381.0011\(6\), 381.00315\(1\)\(b\)](#), provide emergency authorities for the Department of Health; [Section 401.465\(4\)](#) provides the Department of Health waiver authorities and guidance for 911 operators; [Sections 404.051 – 404.101](#) provide radiation control powers; and [Sections 943.0313\(1\)\(a\)\(5\), 943.0313\(1\)\(a\)\(11\)](#) provide guidance for local emergencies. In addition, these federal laws provide overarching legal authority and guidance: [The Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act 2006](#) (Public Law 109-417); [Public Health Service Act](#), 42

## Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness System Resources by Capability, November 2011

U.S.C.; [The Homeland Security Act of 2002](#) (Public Law No. 107-296); and [The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act](#) (Public Law No. 93-288).

### Planning

The [State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan \(CEMP\)](#) is the framework through which the state handles emergencies and disasters. The CEMP is maintained for all state agencies by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) and includes a base plan, incident annexes, Emergency Support Function appendices, and other supporting plans. The [Emergency Support Function 8 Annex](#) describes the public health and medical components of the state's emergency management system. Each county Emergency Manager is responsible for developing and maintaining comprehensive emergency management plans for his/her jurisdiction which meet minimum requirements outlined in the [Local Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan \(CEMP\) Compliance Criteria](#)

The [Department of Health Emergency Operation Plan](#) establishes the framework for delivering public health services and maintaining a viable public health agency during disasters that overwhelm routine business practices.

Each county health department is responsible for implementing and maintaining an emergency operations planning process. Florida has adopted the National Association of County and City Health Officers (NACCHO) [Project Public Health Ready](#) (PPHR) All Hazard Preparedness Planning criteria as the minimum standards for local health planning.

Florida has adopted the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), [Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101](#), as the framework for state public health and medical emergency operations planning. The [Public Health and Medical Planning Guide for State Level Operational Plans](#) provides a step-by-step process for developing plans based on the FEMA Guide. [State level Public Health and Medical Operations Plans](#) and planning resources are accessible via the Internet.

### Training & Exercise

The training and exercise capability is established to ensure that Florida's public health and medical system and supporting partners are properly trained, practice their response roles, perform response duties, and are fully prepared to respond to any and all hazards.

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) is responsible for coordinating the [National Incident Management System](#) standards for health and medical [resource management](#) including credentialing, resource typing and mobilizing personnel resources. Florida has [approved public health and medical team typing structures](#) for Epidemiology Strike Teams, Environmental Health Strike Teams, Special Needs Shelter Management and Augmentation Teams and Disaster Behavioral Health Assessment Teams. Additional team typing and individual credentialing activities are on-going.

The Florida Department of Health [Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan \(MYTEP\)](#) provides a formal structure to advance health and medical community preparedness in Florida. The FDOH MYTEP includes the health components of the integrated [State of Florida Multi-Year Training](#)

## Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness System Resources by Capability, November 2011

[and Exercise Plan](#), which is managed by the [Division of Emergency Management Training and Exercise Section](#).

FDOH has established a two-tier process for reviewing [training curriculum](#) and [exercise](#) proposals. The review process ensures standardization across the full spectrum of preparedness training and exercise events. Scheduled training and exercises are posted to the [Public Health and Medical Training Calendar](#) and/or the [State Training and Events Schedule](#). In addition, training opportunities are available to DOH employees via the internal online Trak-It Learning Management System.

Florida exercises are developed and conducted using the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) standards. The Department has an [HSEEP Mechanics Manual](#) and self-paced training program to support development of HSEEP compliance exercises. Additional in-house resources and support are available to individuals responsible for designing, conducting and completing After-Action Reports (AARs) for public health and medical exercises or real events.

All state level exercise and real-world event [After-Action Reports](#) (AARs) and Improvement Plans (IPs) are shared as a resource for lessons learned. The Training and Exercise Program maintain a database of all Improvement Plan action items for the purpose of analyzing and monitoring strengths, gaps and improvements over time.

Each county health department is responsible for implementing and maintaining preparedness training and exercise processes. Florida has adopted the National Association of City and County Health Officers (NACCHO) [Project Public Health Ready](#) (PPHR) Workforce Capacity Development and Quality Improvement criteria as the minimum standards for local health training and exercises.

### **Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC)**

The [Emergency Support Function 14 External Affairs and Public Information Annex](#) to the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan provides the framework for statewide coordination of public information during disasters. The FDOH is a support agency on the ESF14 Annex. The [FDOH Office of Communications](#) provides staff and resources during activation of the State Emergency Response Team (SERT).

The Regional Domestic Security [Joint Information System \(JIS\) and Joint Information Center \(JIC\) Protocol](#) is a resource for local JIS/JIC operations. The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association (FFCA) [Statewide Emergency Response Plan \(SERP\)](#) outlines the state's unified approach to mutual aid public information surge capacity for incident management. The [Florida Law Enforcement Public Information Officers Association \(FLEPIOA\)](#) promotes professional development and support to the agency spokespersons statewide.

The [FDOH Crisis and Emergency Risk Communications Annex](#) to the FDOH Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) describes how the Department communicates critical information to stakeholders and the public before, during and after events of public health significance. Standard Operating Guidelines for conducting media monitoring, managing rumor control, operating a virtual Joint Information Center, and managing event-specific websites are in the approval process. In addition, Standard Operating Guidelines are in place for use of social. [Creating a County Crisis and Risk Communications Plan](#) is a resource for county health

## **Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness System Resources by Capability, November 2011**

department (CHD) planners and public information officers (PIOs) to aid in establishing local CERC plans and processes.

Each county health department has a designated public information officer. Minimum education and training standards will be documented in the FDOH Office of Communications Public Information Officer Training Standards. The Department has developed and maintains a CERC Portal on the intranet as a central repository for more than 1,000 information tools, pre-scripted messages and templates for public information officers and spokespersons. The Department has also established templates for event specific internal and external websites that can be activated as needed.

Florida uses a variety of public call lines to support dissemination of information during response, including the [Florida 211 Network](#), [Florida Travelers 511 Information Network](#), [Florida Relay Service](#) and other community call lines. The [Florida Emergency Information Line \(FEIL\)](#) is a toll-free hotline activated by the Division of Emergency Management at the time of an emergency. The [Florida Poison Information Center Network](#) provides surge capacity for public and healthcare provider information during emergencies.

### **Goal # 2 – Incident Management**

#### **Emergency Operations Coordination**

Florida has adopted and implemented the [National Incident Management System](#) standards as established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The [Florida Incident Field Operations Guide](#) documents how the NIMS standards and [Incident Command System](#) are accomplished in the state.

Each county has an [Emergency Manager](#), an Emergency Operations Center and a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for the jurisdiction. The [State Emergency Operation Center](#) (SEOC) serves as the clearinghouse for disaster-related information. The Florida Division of Emergency Management manages the State Watch Office and the SEOC year round. The [State Watch Office](#) is the 24/7 notification and communication center for events and incidents around the state. The Florida Department of Health maintains a 24/7 on-call network which includes a Duty Officer and on-call representatives for the Bureaus of Epidemiology, Radiation Control Program, and Public Health Laboratories as well as the county health departments.

During activations, the SEOC is operated in accordance with the [State Emergency Operations Plan](#) and staffed by the State Emergency Response Team (SERT). The team includes representatives from state agencies, associations and private industry necessary to operate the 18 Emergency Support Functions (ESFs).

The Florida Department of Health [Emergency Coordinating Officer](#) is a member of the State Emergency Response Team, responsible for coordinating the public health and medical components (ESF8) of the overall state response, within the Emergency Services Branch under the direction of the SERT Chief. The [ESF8 Standard Operating Procedure](#) describes how ESF8 functions as part of the SERT. The Department does not operate an independent Emergency Operations Center. Florida also participates with the Public Health and Medical [Unified](#)

## Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness System Resources by Capability, November 2011

[Planning Coalition](#). The coalition provides a mechanism for the eight states within HHS Region IV to collaborate on preparedness and response activities.

### Information Sharing

During emergency response, the [State Emergency Support Function 5](#) (Plans) acts as a clearinghouse for event information, facilitates the development of incident action planning, develops approaches and devises solutions for future response operations. Florida has adopted the [EMConstellation](#) incident management tool and the [Florida Disaster Geospatial Assessment Tool for Operations and Response \(GATOR\)](#) tool to facilitate a statewide common operating picture across disciplines and counties. The State ESF8 Planning Section [Situation Unit](#) gathers, verifies and analyzes public health and medical information to support incident priorities.

A variety of public health and medical tools have been implemented to assist with the collection and sharing of information to support incident response. The [Florida Department of Health Emergency Notification System \(FDENS\)](#) is the state's [Health Alert Network](#) and provides internet accessible alerting and notification services. The Agency for Health Care Administration manages the [Emergency Status System](#) for reporting of key health care system indicators during emergencies. Florida is implementing the [Intermedix Corporation EMResource™ and EMTrack™](#) products to support local healthcare system status and patient tracking activities.

The [Florida Fusion Center](#) is a multi-discipline collaborative to share intelligence for preventing and responding to criminal and terrorism activities across the state.

## Goal # 3 – Surge Management

### Medical Surge

[Florida's Emergency Medical Services Strategic Plan](#) Goal 7 assures that the EMS System is prepared to respond to all hazards events in coordination with state disaster plans. The [Florida Fire Chiefs Statewide Emergency Response Committee](#) maintains the [Statewide Emergency Response Plan \(SERP\)](#). The SERP provides the framework to coordinate the systematic mobilization, deployment, organization, and management of emergency resources throughout Florida and the nation in assisting local agencies in mitigating the effects of any large-scale disaster. The [State of Florida Department of Health Ambulance Deployment Plan](#) describes how ESF8, along with the Firefighting (ESF4) and Search and Rescue (ESF9) [Emergency Support Functions](#), work together to ensure sufficient ground and air ambulance services are available during a disaster.

The Florida Department of Health supports [hospital preparedness](#) statewide through allocation of preparedness funding regarding [hospital contracts](#), sharing of planning resources and disseminating best practices. The [Hospital Preparedness Program, 2002 -2010](#) report provides data on the \$119 million provided to Florida hospitals during this reporting period. Florida's [Trauma System Strategic Plan](#), Goal 3, ensures a trauma system prepared to respond to emergency and disaster situations in coordination with state disaster plans.

## Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness System Resources by Capability, November 2011

The [Recommended Disaster Core Competencies](#) is the third edition of a resource to assist hospitals with integrating preparedness into their training programs. The [FDOH Funded Hospital Exercise Report, 2002-2010](#), provides a summary of learning from facility and community exercises. The [2008 Triage System Assessment](#) provided a review of the Florida's START, JUMPSTART, and other available pre-hospital triage systems.

The [Pre-Hospital Emergency Triage](#) training program is available free to Florida first responders from the Michael S. Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education, the Miller School of Medicine, at the University of Miami. The [Burn Center™](#) is an on-line fast-paced, medically accurate simulation game of mass-scale casualty burn treatment. The training was produced by the 360Ed, Inc. and Shands at the University of Florida's Burn Center.

The [Florida Alternate Medical Treatment Site Plan](#) and [Local Plan Development Guide](#) are resources for establishing alternate care locations during a disaster. The Florida [Draft Pandemic Influenza Triage and Allocation of Scarce Resource Guidelines](#) have been developed as a resource for providers' decision-making during disasters.

Public Health and Medical Workforce surge capacity is critical to an effective response. Florida uses a multi-pronged approach for mobilizing healthcare workforce including in-state mutual aid, [establishing typed response teams](#), recruiting volunteers, utilizing partner state resources through the [Emergency Management Assistance Compact](#) (EMAC) and requesting federal assistance.

### Volunteer Management

The [Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service](#), more commonly known as [Volunteer Florida](#) is committed to strengthening Florida communities through volunteerism and service. It is a diverse, bi-partisan group of citizens appointed to direct the Volunteer Florida mission. The Commission is the [lead agency](#) for [Emergency Support Function 15 \(Volunteers and Donations\)](#) under the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

[Florida Volunteer Organization Active in a Disaster \(VOAD\)](#) is the statewide collaborative body of non-governmental organizations that facilitates communication, cooperation, and coordination of member organizations in all phases of disaster management. Florida VOAD is a state chapter of the [National Volunteer Organization Active in a Disaster \(NVOAD\)](#).

The FEMA sponsored [Citizen Corps](#) was established to increase opportunities for citizens to become an integral part of protecting the homeland and supporting local first responders. The [Florida State Citizen Corps Council](#) and [20 county and city councils](#) are affiliated with the national program. The [Medical Reserve Corps \(MRC\)](#) is also a national Citizen Corps affiliate administered by the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#). The [Florida Medical Reserve Corps \(MRC\) Network](#) was established to augment local community health and medical services with trained and credentialed health volunteers during emergencies. Florida has [32 local MRC Units](#) covering 55 of the 67 counties.

Citizens may volunteer to be part of the Florida MRC by registering on the [State Emergency Responders and Volunteers of Florida Registry \(SERVFL\)](#). SERVFL is the statewide system for recruiting, training, credentialing, and managing health volunteers. As of August 2011, SERVFL has 20,082 active accounts. SERVFL is part of the [national network of state-based registries](#)

## **Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness System Resources by Capability, November 2011**

that allows health professionals the opportunity to get their licenses and credentials verified before a disaster happens.

### **Mass Care**

The Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan [Mass Care Emergency Support Function \(ESF6\)](#) is led by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and the Department of Children and Families.

Local county government is responsible for safeguarding the life and property of its residents. The [Florida Statewide Emergency Shelter Plan](#) is a guide for local hurricane shelter planning. The Florida Shelter Plan provides for general population shelters and special needs shelters. The report estimates the demand for and assesses the current capacity of local jurisdictions to provide hurricane sheltering.

Appropriate designation and operation of [special needs shelters](#) is coordinated by local emergency management and the county health departments. Florida uses a multi-agency partnership to coordinate [discharge planning](#) from special needs shelters.

The Special Needs Shelter Interagency Committee was established [through 381.0303\(5\), F.S. to address and resolve problems related to special needs shelters not addressed in the state CEMP](#). The multi-discipline committee is currently addressing Florida's approach to implementation of the [FEMA Functional Needs Support Services Guidance](#).

### **Fatality Management**

The [Medical Examiners Commission](#), as established by Florida Statute is charged with providing minimum and uniform standards of excellence in statewide medical examiner services. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement FDLE coordinates the work of the Commission.

Florida's [Fatality Management Response Plan](#) in an Annex to the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. The Plan was last updated by the Medical Examiners Commission in May, 2010.

The University of Florida, William R. Maples Center for Forensic Medicine, manages the [Florida Emergency Mortuary Operation Response System](#) (FEMORS). The FEMORS mission is to assist and support the local District Medical Examiners Office, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and other responding agencies, in the event of a mass fatality incident as directed by the State Emergency Response Team. The 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the [FEMORS Field Operation Guide](#) was published in 2011.

## **Goal #4 – Countermeasures & Mitigation**

### **Medical Countermeasures Dispensing**

The [Mass Prophylaxis and Treatment Annex](#) to the DOH Emergency Operations Plan outlines Florida's approach to medical countermeasures dispensing. The [Introduction to Strategic National Stockpile and Mass Dispensing Course](#) is available on-line. The [Cities Readiness Initiative Program](#) (CRI) provides funding to support major metropolitan areas in implementing

## **Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness System Resources by Capability, November 2011**

rapid medical countermeasures dispensing. [Florida SHOTS](#) (State Health Online Tracking System) is a free, statewide, centralized online immunization registry that helps healthcare providers and schools keep track of immunization records. The [FDOH Bureau of Immunization](#) successfully modified the registry to support adult immunizations during the H1N1 Influenza Pandemic. The [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System](#) is a cooperative vaccine safety program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration.

### **Responder Safety and Health**

Under [Section 284.50, Florida Statutes](#), each state agency is required to implement a loss prevention program ensuring a safe environment for employees, agents, volunteers, visitors and clients. All safety programs will voluntarily comply with OSHA, [CFR 29, 1910](#), Subparts C through T and Subpart Z, General Industry Standards in accordance with [Executive Order 2000-292](#). Each first responder agency is responsible to ensure safety programs, policies and programs are in place for the most likely hazards or threats an employee may face.

Responder safety and health requirements during emergency response are outlined in the [Florida Field Operations Guide](#) and adhere to [Incident Command System](#) principles and practices. The State Comprehensive Emergency Response Plan [Unified Logistics Plan](#) describes the support infrastructure necessary to ensure responder safety and health. ESF8 supports incident-specific responder safety and health information, supplies and equipment and medical countermeasures.

The Federal Emergency Management Administration [Responder Knowledge Base](#) provides emergency responders, purchasers and planners with a trusted, integrated, online source of information on products, standards, certifications, grants and other equipment-related information.

### **Medical Logistics**

The [State of Florida Unified Logistics Plan](#) is a single source document that includes plans, procedures and supporting documentation needed to ensure the State of Florida maintains a strong and viable logistics capability. The [Division of Emergency Management Logistics Section](#) provides the infrastructure for maintaining the state program.

The Florida Department of Health Bureau of Preparedness and Response [Logistics Support Annex](#) describes how the public health and medical logistics are implemented and integrated into the state unified system. The [Strategic National Stockpile \(SNS\) Appendix](#) outlines how Florida will receive and redistribute the stockpile during an event.

Florida has pre-positioned critical medical equipment and supplies in 10 warehouses across the state. The Department of Health has implemented [Upp Technology's IRMS Warehouse Management](#) software to support warehouse operations. The Department of Health Central Pharmacy supports receipt, distribution, and recovery of pharmaceuticals during disasters. Florida has pre-positioned 108 chemical antidote caches as part of the Chempack program. The [Chempack Deployment Standard Operating Procedure](#) outlines how these assets are mobilized during a no-notice event.

### **Goal #5 – Detection, Surveillance and Investigation**



## **Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness System Resources by Capability, November 2011**

### **Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Detection**

CBRNE detection is the ability to detect materials at the points of manufacturing, transportation and use through monitoring by using detection equipment, providing training and establishing protocols. Florida has partnered with the Department of Homeland Security to implement the national ["If You See Something, Say Something"](#)<sup>TM</sup> campaign to encourage residents and visitors to report suspicious activity.

Florida conducts environmental monitoring for biological agents through participation in the Department of Homeland Security's national bio-surveillance system - BioWatch, designed to detect an intentional release of aerosolized biological agents. The U.S. Postal Service biological detection systems program is also utilized.

The Florida Department of Health [Environmental Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Response](#) Program supports monitoring for radiation in multiple venues and scenarios.

### **Epidemiology Surveillance and Investigation**

The Florida epidemiology, surveillance and investigation capability is committed to preventing and treating [infectious diseases](#) of public health significance, preventing and treating diseases, exposures and conditions of [environmental origin](#) and monitoring and evaluating [chronic disease conditions](#).

Since 1917, Florida law has required [disease reporting](#) for diseases and conditions of public health significance. The Department maintains a variety of [acute disease surveillance programs](#) and [surveillance systems](#) to support prevention and investigation activities.

Each County Health Department is responsible to investigate reportable disease cases and outbreaks within its jurisdiction. Resources available to assist local health departments include case definitions, case reporting forms, [special surveillance worksheets](#) and [food and waterborne disease investigation tools](#). Florida's [respiratory disease surveillance program](#) includes resources for influenza surveillance.

Additional resources, including the [County Health Department Guide to Disease Surveillance and Investigation](#) and the [Hurricane Epidemiology Surveillance Toolkit](#) are available on the Florida Department of Health's internal website.

Epidemiology surveillance and investigation information is critical to establishing appropriate interventions to limit the spread of disease and treat the sick or exposed. Interventions may include medical countermeasures and/or non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as [isolation and quarantine](#).

### **Environmental Health**

The Florida Department of Health protects Floridians from environmental hazards where they live, work and play. This includes preparing for and responding to emergencies with environmental and human health impacts. The Department has six major focus areas of environmental health: protecting [drinking water](#) supplies; controlling [biomedical waste](#); preventing [chemical exposures](#); and protecting the public from [radiation](#).

## Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness System Resources by Capability, November 2011

The State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan [Radiological Emergency Management Plan](#) is the framework for Florida's response to a radiological emergency. The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control [Emergency Preparedness and Response](#) Program responds to intentional or accidental radiation releases, including unexpected radiation releases from nuclear power plants, transportation accidents, lost or stolen radioactive sources and contamination of a facility or the environment. The Department rosters and trains volunteers for the [Radiation Response Volunteer Corps](#) to assist first responders during a radiation related emergency.

# Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness System Resources by Capability, November 2011

## Public Health Laboratory Testing

The Florida Department of Health [Bureau of Laboratories](#) operates four public health laboratories (Jacksonville, Pensacola, Miami and Tampa), which provide diagnostic screening, monitoring, reference, emergency and research public health laboratory services to county health departments and other official agencies, physicians, hospitals and private laboratories.

The Bureau of Laboratories is a partner in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [Laboratory Response Network](#) (LRN). The national LRN maintains an integrated network of state and local public health, federal, military and international laboratories that can respond to bioterrorism, chemical terrorism and other public health emergencies.

The Florida Comprehensive Laboratory Response Plan provides the framework for laboratory partners within the state to support increased demand for laboratory services during emergencies.

The Bureau of Laboratories is an authorized [Continuing Education Provider](#) and conducts workshops and seminars on a variety of laboratory topics, including LRN Sentinel Laboratory Training, First Responder Sample Collection Training, Chemical Terrorism Awareness and Collection of Clinical Specimens after a Chemical Terrorism Event.

## Goal #6 – Community Resilience

### Community Preparedness

Florida's public health and medical hazard and vulnerability analysis (HVA) approach to determine risks to the health of the population is a work in progress. A departmental working group has reviewed a variety of HVA methodologies and will propose an integrated approach. Several sources of information are currently in place.

- The [State of Florida Enhanced Mitigation Plan, 2010](#), provides a risk assessment, by county, for 17 hazards (13 weather related hazards, dam failure, terrorism, technological event and mass migration). The vulnerability analysis in the plan includes total population, environmental factors and key infrastructure.
- Florida's [Vulnerable Population](#) initiative provides data and fact sheets on populations most at risk for a poor health outcome during disasters, community assessment tools and a communications guide.
- Florida participated with the CDC in a pilot project for developing a public health hazard vulnerability analysis. As a part of the pilot project, Florida developed a [Public Health Hazard Vulnerability GIS Map Service](#).
- Under Florida Statute, counties are required to conduct regular [community health assessments](#). These assessments provide another data source for evaluating the potential resiliency of a community and its ability to mitigate adverse health outcomes during a disaster. Counties are encouraged to utilize the [Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships \(MAPP\)](#) process that utilizes community partnerships and strategic planning methodologies.

## Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness System Resources by Capability, November 2011

- The [Public Health and Medical Planning Guide for State Level Operational Plans](#) requires a hazard vulnerability analysis be completed as a step in the plan development process.
- Facility level HVAs are conducted as part of the state's Critical Infrastructure/Key Resource Program. Healthcare facilities, such as hospitals, laboratories, and pharmaceutical distribution warehouses, are assessed, upon request, using a standard tool. The result of the HVA is a written report provided to the facility to assist with identifying and mitigating vulnerabilities.

Florida's Emergency Management success is founded on community partnerships of government, non-profit organizations, private businesses and residents. Each [County Emergency Manager](#) is responsible for engaging community partners to support preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities within their jurisdiction. At the state level, partners are defined in each of the [Emergency Support Function](#) Annexes as either "Lead" or "Support" entities. Each state agency has an [Emergency Coordinating Officer](#) responsible for engaging additional partners. The [Domestic Security Organizational Structure](#) includes an oversight group, seven regional operational groups and an advisory structure. The State Working Group on Domestic Preparedness is a multi-discipline group of subject matter experts from around the state.

Florida's "[Get a Plan](#)" campaign, the [Family Readiness Kit](#), [2011 Severe Weather Awareness Guide](#), [Family Preparedness Guide](#) (English, Spanish, Creole), [2011 Disaster Preparedness Guide for the Elderly](#), [Disaster Readiness Tips for Persons with Disabilities](#) and [Family Disaster Supply Kit Checklist](#) are examples of the many resources available for personal preparedness planning.

Community programs and partners under the [Florida Citizen Corps](#) provide opportunities to embrace the personal responsibility to be prepared to get training in first aid and emergency skills and to volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief and community safety. The [Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Program](#) assists neighborhoods to be ready before disaster strikes.

### **Critical Infrastructure Protection**

Florida's implementation of the national [Critical Infrastructure Protection Program \(CIPP\)](#) is managed by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement FDLE Office of Statewide Intelligence. The [State Working Group on Domestic Preparedness](#) (SWG) includes a standing Critical Infrastructure/Key Resource (CI/KR) Statewide Committee. The Florida Department of Health serves as a co-chair on the SWG CI/KR Committee along with an FDLE representative. Each [Regional Domestic Security Task Force](#) (RDSTF) has a CI/KR committee.

Florida has adopted the Department of Homeland Security [Automated Critical Asset Management System](#) as the database for collecting critical facility hazard and vulnerability assessments. The Florida Department of Health and the O'Gara Group have developed a standard assessment tool for healthcare facilities that is a component of the state strategy to increase facility resiliency and pre-identify vulnerabilities that may negatively impact disaster response efforts. To assist with response activities for Florida critical facilities, the Division of Emergency Management maintains GIS data layers for selected [critical facilities](#).

## Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness System Resources by Capability, November 2011

### Community Recovery

[Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning](#) enables communities to integrate and advance planning efforts to achieve a more sustainable and resilient community after a disaster. The [Recovery Annex](#) to the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan provides the framework for recovery operations in Florida. Public and individual financial assistance are coordinated by the [Recovery Bureau](#) within the Division of Emergency Management.

[Business disaster planning](#) and government [continuity of operations](#) plans assist with a rapid recovery of services after a disaster. The [Florida Health Care Association Emergency Preparedness Tools](#) assist long-term care providers with preparedness planning and emergency response. The [Florida Association of Community Health Centers](#) provides emergency management resources and training to their member centers.

The [Disaster Behavioral Health Response Plan](#) is an annex to the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. The Florida Crisis Consortium, which includes disaster behavioral experts from around the state developed the plan to provide guidance to mitigate the adverse effects of disaster-related trauma by promoting and restoring psychological well-being and daily life functioning to affected individuals and communities.