



2026 FASAR Business meeting, Orlando Convention Center

1005 – *Willis* Meeting called to order, Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of previous meeting minutes, motion to approve (*Abreu*), seconded (*Daugherty*)

TRT

Brown - TRT roll call 101, 102, 109, 309, 312, 316, 421, 423, 425, 526, 532, 540, 635, 638, 644, 645, 646, 647, 656, 756, in attendance

46 state teams, 44 active teams

New teams in 2025

Alachua County & Walton County.

Site evaluations for teams are pending.

Previous team numbers for inactive teams are being reissued to reactive teams to keep tracking consistent for the region. New teams are assigned by regions; numbers do not correlate to seniority.

35% increase in TRT Teams since 2019.

9 new Teams have expressed interest in becoming a team.

Tec rescue events, request events/calls to be input into Ready Op for tracking. Please notify Matt Brown of the incident for input into the Ready Op system. If possible, capture the incident address.

Incidents will be published and distributed to all TRT teams.

Ready Op tracking of TRT events in 2025. 19 events reported, please be diligent in reporting incidents.

4 rope, 1 VMR, 9 Structural collapses, 3 large animals, 1 confined space, 1 Wide Area.

Training – Teams are submitting training opportunities for distribution

No State TRT deployments last year.

OREs were due last year; 30 OREs were received. Please submit OREs when able. A list will be submitted.

90% score or higher to be eligible for deployment. 7 TRT teams are currently below 90%. Data for lower teams will be reviewed to validate self-assessment scores and provide input to increase scores.



2026-01 FASAR Section Meeting Minutes



Kohnke- Please be honest with evaluations to ensure readiness for response. It is critical for the state response.

SUSAR in November, a great opportunity for classes in Leadership and Technical training.

Walt Lewis- SUSAR, Nov 11-15, includes pre-conference classes consisting of numerous classes for US&R training and leadership.

Strickland – Water Rescue capabilities will be discussed in the training session.

Assessments will be discussed by Chappel.

De LaRosa - SERP Update, development for the update of the SERP plan, IST, DEMES, and tracking layouts will be implemented

Dir. Rice – Thank you to all who participated in ADHOC committees for funding. Last year was a built-out year due to no storms, working with Mike Belamy for marketing state teams and USAR capabilities, and training opportunities forthcoming. EOC is open, and the first training opportunity is upcoming. John Kohnke is retiring on June 30th. Hiring requirements will be distributed to people interested in filling the position.

Day at the Capitol is Feb 18th, focus on marketing and recruitment, the Gala is that same evening. Tickets are still available.

Willis- Day at Capitol, what can teams bring? *Kohnke* – 7500lb weight limit on vehicles, specialty equipment less than 7500 lbs. submit a request for approval. All spaces are assigned and limited in number. 10x10 tents and areas for demos of equipment available. The Capitol has just been renovated, with new pavers in the courtyard.

Logistics for the attendees' rally point and equipment positioning will be discussed in an upcoming meeting.

Kohnke - Appropriated funding **must** be spent by teams; monies will not roll into the next year, due to it being recurring.

Brown – Agenda items complete.

0945 - TRT meeting concluded



Federal Updates

The DOGE initiative resulted in numerous retirements and a reduction in Federal USAR executive positions. FEMS is advertising to restaff. Onboarding is a lengthy process.

Downey - FEMA has approved the use of UAVs for the USAR branch for responses.

Downey - LBR funding has been approved at the state level, but which parent agency Florida US&R falls under at the State level has not been determined.

Willis – Working with committees at the State level to determine which department US&R will fall under.

SUSAR

Chappel – SUSAR is growing due to its success; SUSAR will be planning training opportunities nationwide. SUSAR is for all team sizes. Teams do not need to be a state-sanctioned team to be a member of SUSAR.

SUSAR's specialty classes curriculum has been developed to meet FEMA requirements. SUSAR state-level classes were developed to satisfy FEMA credentialing. A standardized state-level team training will allow teams to be familiar with FEMA operations during deployments

Lewis - RFPs for speakers/classes are posted on the SUSAR website.

Special Nomination

Willis - Current Region 3 Representative can no longer fulfill requirements

Willis – Region 3 representative, a motion was made to hold a specialty nomination.

FASAR Chair Allen Willis nominated Nicole Clark to be the Region 3 Representative.

Nicole Clark accepted the nomination.

A motion to approve was made, and the motion was seconded.

Nicole Clark is now the Region 3 Representative. Next election is Jan 2027.

1155 - Meeting adjourned for lunch



US&R IST

Strickland – 2025 consisted of 3 activations, 3 alerts, and 3 advisories.

March 2025, TF4 was mobilized to Tallahassee for possible severe weather. Type 3 SWT, this was the first time the State had pre-deployed a team.

EMAC – C&G IST deployed to Kentucky for flooding. FEMA had a gap in the Federal IST; Florida filled the gap in Kentucky deployment.

EMAC – June 2025: Teams were deployed to Texas for flooding. FL-4, FL-1, FL-2.

Training - 6 IST classes at FSFC, two team meetings, two team dinners.

SWT discussion, current SWT typing has changed. Type 1 – 16 pax & 2-boats. Type 2- 8 pax, & 2 boats, Type 3 - 6 pax & 1 boat.

Possibly, Florida will develop its own SWT typing guidelines.

MARC

Dargoltz – 2025 had no MARC deployments; LBR funding was allocated. \$10k one time and \$6k recurring for all teams. MARC has received all replacement radios. USAR still has some radios that need to be issued to teams. All radio cache's have been purchased.

28 Star Links are available for use during deployments.

All MACRS have been issued Star Links. ESF 4/9 and DFS maintain data plans for Star Links and activate them as needed.

A radio class is scheduled for next month at FSFC.

Regional Reports

Regions 1,2,3,4: nothing to report.

Region 5 - Texas Deployment.

Region 6 - OREs have been received, thank you. TF6 onboarding new members

Region 7 – nothing to report.

FFCA



DFSFM Office

Old Business

The Regional Representative position description document was drafted by Tony Daughetry and submitted.

FASAR web site

Nicky – FASAR website shows updated council member names; all reference manuals on the site were updated. Publications and working groups templates are being updated.

Meeting agendas and meeting minutes are now current on-site.

New Business

Willis - STS liaison has stepped down from TF-3; FASAR is recruiting for a new Engineer willing to act as a liaison for FASAR.

Webb – TF-1 STS Heather Arnesta has expressed interest.

FDEM Team Assessment's

Chappel – Longview has been tasked with providing team assessments for the State of Florida. FSFM, ESF 4/9, has authorized assessments for all 8 teams.

FEMA RTLT is the template used as the standard for Team Typing.

The self-assessment tool has been submitted to all teams.

Must have for the self-assessment tool. Identify the Team type, and a signature from a Chief Officer confirming the department's support of the existing or proposed team.

The assessment is designed to identify any gaps in each team to justify more funding sources for team sustainability. USAR and SWT.

Assessments will be performed in February and March. Submit the self-assessment workbook, and a scheduling email will be sent for the on-site assessments.

The assessment is not an audit; it is not an ORE.



Open Discussion

TabEEK - Palm Beach advised that their assessment resulted in additional funding and a letter from the State of Florida designating them as a Type 3 USAR Team and a Type 1 SWT.

Hudson - Pasco County completed its assessment and received a Type 4 USAR and Type 3 SWT for the State.

It is encouraged to get involved in local and regional IPPW workshops. IPPW is used to identify gaps in State response and provide training opportunities.

Motion to adjourn. 1500

FASAR Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2025.

This document has been reviewed, and it accurately reflects the proceedings held per the official January FASAR meeting agenda. This document will be presented to the FASAR members present at the July meeting for official approval of the January 2025 Meeting Minutes.

X *Allen Willis*

Allen Willis, FASAR Chair

X *Andrew Capeletti*

Andrew Capeletti, FASAR Secretary



Florida Fire Chiefs' Association

Election Results

January 5th 2026

Position	Candidate	# Votes	Elected
Section Chair	Allen Willis		
Secretary	Andrew Capeletti		
Region 2	Kurt Hindle		
Region 4	Tim Collier		
Region 6	Glen Van Brunt		

Validated by

Chair ☒

Vice Chair ☐

Immediate Past Chair ☐

Allen Willis
Print Name

Allen Willis
Signature