



# STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

October 17, 2025

Dear State Specialty Response Team Leaders,

On behalf of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), I am pleased to announce the launch of the Specialty Response Team Capability Assessment Program (SRT-CAP). This initiative is central to our mission of ensuring Florida's readiness and resilience across all disciplines of emergency response. The SRT-CAP provides a statewide framework to identify, assess, and credential specialty response teams across a range of disciplines, including:

- Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Teams
- Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Teams
- Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Teams
- All-Hazards Incident Management Teams (AHIMTs)
- Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Teams
- Bomb Response Teams
- Helicopter/Rotary Wing SAR Teams
- Land Search and Rescue (SAR) Teams
- Waterborne Response and Search and Rescue Teams
- Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Teams
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Management Support Teams
- Animal Search and Rescue Teams

I want to emphasize that this initiative does not place new demands or mandates on your agency. Under section 252.35.10(l), Florida Statutes, it is FDEM's responsibility to track the response resources that we have within the state. Therefore, FDEM will lead and own the assessment process end-to-end, managing timelines, standards, and logistics. Your agency – and its subject matter experts – are invited to contribute to assessments.

Looking ahead, FDEM intends for the SRT-CAP to be more than a one-time initiative. This will be a continuing program that will give every discipline the opportunity to regularly review progress, refine priorities, and strengthen capabilities. Each round of assessments will build on the last, so agencies see not just where we are today, but where we are headed together.

If you have any questions about the program, please reach out to Charles Walrath, at either [Charles.Walrath@em.myflorida.com](mailto:Charles.Walrath@em.myflorida.com) or 850-591-6271.

Sincerely,

Kevin Guthrie, MA MEP | Executive Director  
Florida Division of Emergency Management