Florida Statute 252
and
What It Means From a Local Emergency Management Perspective
"Local emergency management agency" means an organization created in accordance with the provisions of ss. 252.31-252.90 to discharge the emergency management responsibilities and functions of a political subdivision.
Sec. 252.355, Florida Statutes. Registry of persons with special needs; notice.

- Maintain a registry of persons with special needs located within the agency’s jurisdiction
State agencies that contract with providers to care for individuals with disabilities or limitations are required to include disaster planning provisions in their contract. Included in these contract provisions is a procedure to help persons who would need assistance and emergency sheltering during disasters to register with the local emergency management agency.
Each state agency Emergency Coordinating Officer is required to ensure that each state agency and facility has a disaster preparedness plan and that the plan is coordinated with the applicable local emergency management agency and approved by the Division of Emergency Management.
Sec. 252.373(2)(a), Florida Statutes. Allocation of funds; rules.

• Requires (to be eligible for funding from the Emergency Management, Preparedness and Assistance Trust Fund) that at a minimum each local emergency management agency have either:
  i. Have a program director who works at least 40 hours a week in that capacity: or
  ii. If the county has fewer than 75,000 population or is party to an inter-jurisdictional emergency management agreement pursuant to s. 252.38(3)(b), that is recognized by the Governor either by executive order or rule, have an emergency management coordinator who works at least 20 hours a week in that capacity.
Sec. 252.38, Florida Statutes.

Emergency management powers of political subdivisions.

- Develop, direct and coordinate emergency management plans and programs that are consistent with the state and federal plans and policies
- Director has direct responsibility for organization, administration and operation of county emergency management agency
- Director coordinates emergency management activities, services and programs within the county
- Director serves as liaison to the state and other local emergency management agencies and organizations
- Perform emergency management functions within the county
- Conduct activities outside territorial limits as required by statute and in accordance with state and county emergency management plans and mutual aid agreements
- Serve as liaison for and coordinator of municipalities requests for state and federal assistance during post-disaster emergency operations
- May charge and collect reasonable fees for review of emergency management plans on behalf of other agencies and institutions
Each county emergency agency must have a director that meets the minimum training and education qualifications established in a job description approved by the county.

Director shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners or the chief administrative officer of the county and serves at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

A county constitutional officer or an employee of a county constitutional officer may be appointed as director following prior notification to the Division of Emergency Management.
Sec. 252.385(4)(a), Florida Statutes. Public Shelter Space.

- Public facilities including schools, (with exceptions for health care related facilities) owned or leased by the state or local governments which are suitable for use as public hurricane evacuation shelters shall be made available at the request of local emergency management agencies.
- Required to coordinate with the appropriate state or local government owning agency when requesting the use of their facilities as public hurricane evacuation shelters.
- Required to coordinate with public entities to ensure that designated public facilities are ready to activate prior to a specific hurricane or disaster.
Sec. 252.40, Florida Statutes. Mutual aid arrangements.

- Develop and enter into mutual aid agreements for reciprocal aid and assistance in case of emergency.
- Copies of such agreements are to be sent to the Division of Emergency Management.
Sec. 252.42, Florida Statutes. Government equipment, services and facilities

- Provides authority to develop and enter into contracts with the State of Florida for the transfer of personnel and property
Sec. 252.45, Florida Statutes.
Lease or loan of state property; transfer of state personnel.

- Provides authority to develop and enter into contracts with the State of Florida for the transfer of personnel and property
Sec 252.51, Florida Statutes.
Liability

- Provides for liability protection for any individual or organization, public or private, that provides its facility for use as a shelter during an actual, impending, mock or practice emergency
Local Politics

• What is it?
• Who’s involved?
• How does it impact my program?
• Who is my bosses boss?
• Communicating with local elected officials with out stepping on your bosses toes?
Local Ordinances

- What local ordinances drive your Emergency Management program?
- How do they mesh with Florida Statute 252?
Relationship Building and Continued Maintenance

- Building a strong EM program begins with good relations!
- There is no “I” in TEAMWORK!
- Having those subject matter experts in your corner in the heat of battle and knowing all of them by their first name before the first shot is fired can mean the difference between success and failure!