

Currently in the Coalition

Updates from the Tampa Bay Health & Medical Preparedness Coalition—September 2023

September is National Preparedness Month!

In addition to being the peak of hurricane season, September is also National Preparedness Month. This month is observed each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. This year's theme is "Take Control in 1, 2, 3", with a special focus on empowering older adults to prepare for disasters.

The 2023 National Preparedness Month campaign will focus on preparing older adults for disaster, specifically older adults from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the all-hazard events, which continue to threaten the nation.

We know older adults can face greater risks when it comes to the multitude of extreme weather events and emergencies we now face, especially if they are living alone, are low-income, have a disability, or live in rural areas.

Emergency managers and all those who work with and support older adult communities can access the new webpage available in English and Spanish languages at Ready.gov/older-adults and Ready.gov/es/adultos-mayores for initial messaging, graphics and resources.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) recommends users and administrators use this month as an opportunity to assess cybersecurity preparedness for cyber-related events, such as identity theft, ransomware infection, or a data breach.

Learn more about preparing for a natural disaster or general emergency at Ready.gov/September. For more information about cybersecurity preparedness visit Ready.gov/Cybersecurity.



Hurricane Idalia After Action Report

The Coalition is demobilizing our response to Hurricane Idalia, and starting to reflect on our lessons learned. We know some of you are still in response and recovery modes, but it is never too early to start documenting! We will be compiling a Coalition -Wide After Action Report (AAR) for Hurricane Idalia. If you'd like to be included as a participant in this AAR, **please complete [THIS SURVEY](#) by Friday, September 29th.**

We also encourage you to do your own AAR, and have resources to help you do this on our website! A template is available [here](#), and a webinar on how to use it is [here](#). (Website login is required.)



Tampa Bay Health & Medical Preparedness Coalition

Citrus, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk & Sumter Counties

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NEW! Bill Howe
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Upcoming Coalition Meetings

Pinellas CHAMP:
September 8th

Pasco County Health & Medical Coalition:
September 11th

Manatee CHAMP:
September 13th

Hernando County ESF-8 Working Group:
September 14th

Hillsborough County Health Care Coalition:
September 21st

Polk County Health Care:
September 21st

Citrus County ESF-8 WG:
September 27th

Important Info & Updates

National Suicide Prevention Month

In recognition of September as National Suicide Prevention Month, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), is empowering the public by recommending key actions that everyone can take to help save lives in their communities. While suicide prevention matters every day of the year, National Suicide Prevention Month shines a light on this leading cause of death to connect people with support and to spread the hopeful message that help is available.



In spring 2023, AFSP launched a campaign called [Talk Away the Dark](#) that features a [public service announcement](#) that shows the impact of a simple, direct dialogue about suicide and how to initiate those conversations to save lives.

There are countless ways to Talk Away the Dark including initiating conversations about mental health, [learning the warning signs](#) and [risk factors](#), speaking up and making sure more people know what research reveals about how to prevent suicide, lighting the way for those in distress to feel comfortable asking for help, and knowing what to say to support survivors of suicide loss. Learn more at www.afsp.org/talkawaythedark.

U.S. and International Partners Release Report on Russian Cyber Actor Using “Infamous Chisel” Malware

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), National Security Agency (NSA), United Kingdom National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC UK), Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (CCCS), Australian Signals Directorate (ASD), and New Zealand’s Cyber Security Centre (NCSC-NZ) released a joint malware analysis report on [Infamous Chisel malware](#) used by Sandworm actor targeting Android devices used by Ukraine military.

Infamous Chisel is a collection of components targeting Android devices with capabilities to enable unauthorized access to compromised devices, scan files, monitor traffic, and periodically steal sensitive information. The malware’s capability includes network monitoring, traffic collection, network backdoor access via The Onion Router (Tor) and Secure Shell (SSH), network scanning and Secure Copy Protocol (SCP) file transfer.

The malware is attributed to Sandworm, the Russian Main Intelligence Directorate’s (GRU’s) Main Centre for Special Technologies, GTsST. Network defenders and users are encouraged to review the report for indicators of compromise (IOCs) and detection rules and signatures to determine system compromise.

For more on Russian malicious cyber activity, visit CISA’s [Russia Cyber Threat Overview and Advisories](#) webpage.



DHS/CISA and FBI Published Joint Advisory on OakBot Infrastructure

As the nation’s cyber defense agency, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the FBI released a joint Cybersecurity Advisory, [“Identification and Disruption of OakBot Infrastructure,”](#) to help organizations reduce the likelihood of QakBot-related activity and promote identification of QakBot-facilitated ransomware and malware infections.

From recent FBI operations, the advisory provides observed tactics used by threat actors along with several IP addresses assessed to be used to access victim systems. QakBot—also known as Qbot, Quackbot, Pinkslipbot, and TA570—is responsible for thousands of malware infections globally. 3

However, disruption of the QakBot botnet does not mitigate other previously-installed malware or ransomware on victim computers. Therefore, all organizations are recommended to review the advisory and implement recommended mitigations that can help reduce the impact and risk of compromise by malicious cyber actors. Some of the recommended mitigations include apply cross-sector cybersecurity performance goals, use phishing-resistant multifactor authentication and segment networks; review [advisory](#) for all best practices listed in the advisory.

Also, organizations are reminded to visit StopRansomware.gov which provides a range of free U.S. government resources and services that can help bolster cyber hygiene, cybersecurity posture and reduce risk to ransomware.

Meet Bill Howe, TBHMPC Logistics Coordinator!

Please welcome Bill Howe, our new Logistics Coordinator! Bill's day-to-day roles will include the management of TBHMPC's assets and warehouse, conducting site visits to verify any equipment funded by TBHMPC, and support a variety of training and exercise initiatives. For any resource needs/requests, please contact Bill at William.Howe@TampaBayHMPC.org or call him at 727-310-1509.

Some interesting facts about Bill:

- Most recently worked with Pinellas County EM in Mass Care/ Sheltering, Logistics and GIS data collection.
- Spent 27 years in the fire service—24 of those years with Sarasota County Fire Department as a firefighter/ paramedic.
- EMT program lead and instructor at the old Sarasota County Technical Institute or S.C.T.I (presently known as Sarasota Technical College).
- Multiple Deployments for Hurricanes Task Force and Strike Team Response.
- COVID Response Veteran from start to finish with the Department as well as Florida COVID Response IMT team and Federal Vaccination Site in Miami IMT team.
- Logistics Basecamp operator for a private company from Baton Rouge (1000-1500 man and woman lineman camps) with bunk trailers, catering, showers and restroom facilities over the past four years.
- Navy Veteran of 14 years. His son is also serving in the Navy in a special combat unit in San Diego.
- He also has a daughter living in Sarasota County, who is hardworking like her Dad and is his favorite. (Don't tell his son because he is also his favorite.) He has two minion K-9s, Angus and Bonnie, and finally his wife Darlene (who has been putting up with him for over 35 years and yes that is 3 & 5!!) She keeps her halo and wings in the closet. :)



"I look forward to working and assisting to help grow the best coalition in the United States! If there is anything I can assist with please do not hesitate to reach out!!"

Upcoming Trainings & Events

2023 Coalition Contract Challenge

Our next Community-Wide Drill is right around the corner! On **Thursday, September 28th at 10am**, we will hold a drill asking all participants to confirm their disaster plan contracts and agreements! This drill will kick off at 10am, and take place at your own organization, and allow you to reach out to all companies that provide services within your emergency plans (ranging from transportation to food and fuel). Once those efforts are complete, you will complete a survey to include your info in our Coalition-Wide Drill After Action Report.

[Register here](#)

More details on participation will be provided to all registrants. *This drill is designed to meet CMS Exercise Requirements for a Community-Based Exercise.*

REGISTER HERE
for this community based exercise to help you confirm your disaster plan contracts before you need them!

2023 COALITION CONTRACT CHALLENGE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH AT 10AM

TBHMPC
WWW.TAMPABAYHMPC.ORG

Continuity of Operations (COOP) Workshop

Our next **Continuity of Operations (COOP) Workshop** with BOLDPlanning will be on Tuesday, **October 3rd from 1pm – 4pm** via Zoom. Participants in this workshop will create the bulk of their new and improved COOP plan during the workshop. (All registrants need to complete 4 spreadsheet templates ASAP, to allow for the creation of an account for their organization. Templates can be found [here](#).) [Register here](#)

N-95 Fit Testing Train-the-Trainer for Healthcare Classes

We are in the process of scheduling N-95 Fit Testing Train-the-Trainer for Healthcare classes in September and October. So stay tuned to your weekly training updates for course announcements and registration opportunities!

Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT) Classes

We have HERT classes being offered through Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital (JHACH) and Baycare in the coming months. See below for registration info and/or who to contact!

- September 14th at St. Anthony's Hospital. Email Ryan.Becker-Sikes@baycare.org to sign up.
- October 12th at AdventHealth Tampa from 9am—5pm. [Register here](#).
- October 13th at JHACH from 9am—5pm. [Register here](#).

Florida Healthcare Coalitions & The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP)

The following Virtual Trainings are available to any Coalition member/partner in Florida!

- [September 19th from 10am - 11am](#) (Full but more seats may be opening soon) OR [September 21st from 1pm - 3pm](#): Healthcare Facility Patient Evacuation Planning and Preparedness (HCV12).
- [October 17th from 10am - 12pm](#): Medical Surge Management (HCV4)
- [November 14th from 10am - 11:30am](#): Crisis Standards of Care and Treatment Decision Making (HCV1)
- [December 12th from 10am - 1pm](#): Healthcare Facility Emergency Management Program (HCV6)



CyberSecureFlorida Training for Public Employees!

This training initiative has stemmed from Florida Legislation HB5001, Section 2944B, which directs Cyber Florida “to conduct cybersecurity training for state and local government executive, managerial, technical, and general staff.” Every employee has a role to play in preventing cyber-crime, and this effort aims to make Florida’s public sector workforce the most cyber-ready in the nation! [Click here](#) for more info.



Visit cybersecureflorida.org/training to view courses and register!

Options tailored for all skill levels and job roles:

- General cybersecurity awareness for office staff
- Technical certification training for IT/cyber personnel
- Risk management, incident response, policy, and governance courses for executives and managers
- Each course provides a digital badge certifying completion

FREE
state-funded
cybersecurity
awareness
education &
technical
training for the
public-sector

Courses are free and open to ALL state and local government employees, including

- State government
- County government
- Municipal government
- Law enforcement
- State University System
- Florida College System
- Public School Districts

Program partners offering approved courses:



CYBER FLORIDA
BY THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Coalition Highlights



Steve Litschauer had the honor and privilege of accepting the proclamation from the Board of County Commission, declaring September as Preparedness month for Manatee County, great teamwork from all in Emergency Management, Public Safety, other county department, and other supporting agencies and nonprofits.



Kudos to our county government for their amazing support during Hurricane Idalia! The collaboration between Manatee Memorial and the county was crucial in ensuring the safety of patients and the community. Access to the National Guard and

the deployment of a Tiger Dam around the hospital exemplified effective teamwork.



Do you have moments from Hurricane Idalia response that you'd like to share?

Please send them to us! We'd love to see pictures and hear stories on how your organization fared, for sharing with Coalition partners and in a future Newsletter.

And while you are at it, complete our Hurricane Idalia After Action Report Survey... details on page 1 of this Newsletter!



We want to hear from you! If you would like to share a highlight or from your organization in a future Coalition newsletter or publication, please email it to Turea at TBHMPC2@gmail.com.