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Updates and analysis from the Government and Leadership Office of the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce

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## **Resilient Business Initiative - Week 11: Coordination with**

### **Local Emergency Partners**

#### **Purpose**

Businesses that pre-assign response roles, maintain current emergency contacts, and organize a simple incident information process are better positioned to protect employees, communicate clearly, and resume operations more quickly during a disruption. Incident Command System principles give businesses a practical framework for coordinating with public safety, local government, utilities, landlords, vendors, and internal staff.

#### **Why It Matters to Venice Area Businesses**

For Venice-area employers, disruption is rarely limited to a single issue. A hurricane or major utility failure can trigger power loss, flooding, staffing shortages, supply interruption, communications failure, and customer confusion at the same time. The same coordination challenge applies during structure fires, severe storms, hazardous materials incidents, cyber events, transportation disruptions, or law-enforcement-related emergencies near a business district. Members that can quickly share verified status information, operating

limitations, and resource needs are better positioned to protect people, reopen faster, and support broader community recovery.

## Key Leadership Insight

The Incident Command System reduces confusion by establishing common terminology, clear roles, and a shared operating picture. For a business, that means deciding in advance who leads, who communicates with employees and customers, who documents impacts, and who contacts outside partners when conditions change quickly.

## Action for Members

A business does not need a full emergency operations center to benefit from this model. The practical step is to designate an incident lead, a backup, and a short list of core responsibilities such as operations, communications, facilities, technology, and finance/documentation. When a business point of contact can communicate clearly with fire rescue, law enforcement, emergency management, building management, or utility representatives, response is faster and misunderstandings are reduced.

## This Week's 10-Minute Task

- Identify the outside partners your business is most likely to need during an incident, including 911, fire rescue, law enforcement, Sarasota County Emergency Management, utility providers, property management, key vendors, IT support, and insurance contacts.
- Document primary and backup contact points, including after-hours numbers, alternate communication methods, and the internal staff member responsible for each call.
- Create a one-page incident checklist covering life safety issues, facility status, access restrictions, utility conditions, technology status, staffing availability, customer impacts, and immediate resource needs.

## Deliverable

A local incident coordination sheet that includes internal roles, priority outside contacts, and the key status information your business will share in the first operational period of a crisis.

Use this incident coordination sheet template as a basic cut and paste for your use or use it to build a better version to suit your needs. Initiate it at the start of an incident and update it each operational period to maintain command, control, and information sharing with internal leaders and external partners.

## Business Incident Coordination Sheet

ICS-Informed Quick Form for Venice Area Chamber Member Businesses

**Business / Location** \_\_\_\_\_

**Incident Type** \_\_\_\_\_

**Operational Period** Start: \_\_\_\_\_ End: \_\_\_\_\_

**Incident Lead / Deputy** Lead: \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy: \_\_\_\_\_

**Command Staff / Key Functions** Operations: \_\_\_\_\_ Planning: \_\_\_\_\_

Logistics: \_\_\_\_\_

Finance / Documentation: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee / Customer Communications: \_\_\_\_\_

What happened, current conditions, and known impacts:

**Situation Summary**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Life Safety / Accountability**

Injuries, evacuation status, staff accountability, hazards:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Business Objectives for This Operational Period**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Facility / Access Status**

Open / Closed / Restricted / Damage / Security concerns:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Utilities / Systems Status**

Power: \_\_\_\_\_ Water: \_\_\_\_\_ Internet / POS / Phones: \_\_\_\_\_

HVAC: \_\_\_\_\_

**Staffing / Continuity Status**

Available staff, shortages, remote capability, essential functions:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Customer / Community Impact**

Service limitations, customer messaging, supply chain impacts:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Assigned Actions**

Task / Responsible Person / Due Time:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**External Coordination / Priority Contacts**

911 / Fire / Law Enforcement: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Management / Utility / Property Management:

\_\_\_\_\_

Key Vendor / IT / Insurance / Banking:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Resource Requests / Unmet Needs**

Fuel, cleanup, security, technology support, temporary staff, supplies: \_\_\_\_\_

**Communications Schedule**

Next internal briefing: \_\_\_\_\_ Next external update:

\_\_\_\_\_

## Readiness Outcome

- Members know who serves as incident lead, who backs them up, and which outside partners should be contacted first for the most likely risks facing the business.
- Members know what information to provide quickly so emergency partners, employees, customers, and vendors can make informed decisions and support continuity of operations.

## Why It Matters Regionally

Stronger coordination between Chamber member businesses and local emergency partners improves life safety, situational awareness, and recovery across the Venice community. When businesses use common language, maintain current contact pathways, and communicate verified conditions rather than assumptions, public and private organizations can align priorities and restore operations more effectively.

## Next Week

Week 12 - Exercise, Validation & Certification

## Hot Topic: Live Local

**Bottom Line:** The Live Local Act remains one of Florida's central workforce-housing policies. For chamber leadership, the issue is not simply housing production; it is the balance between increasing attainable housing supply and managing the infrastructure, land-use, and community impacts that accompany accelerated development.

**Why It Matters to Employers:** Florida continues to face significant affordability pressure. The Shimberg Center reports a statewide deficit of affordable and available rental units for lower-income households, while the Florida Housing Data Project and related reporting indicate broader housing shortages affecting both renters and buyers. For employers, housing constraints can make recruitment, retention, and wage competitiveness more difficult, particularly for essential and early-career workers.

**Policy Context:** The Florida Legislature created the Live Local framework in 2023 to encourage more affordable and workforce housing, including through zoning preemptions and tax incentives. In 2026, HB 1389 advanced another round of changes effective July 1, 2026, including adjustments to where Live Local provisions apply and how local governments may regulate qualifying projects. Senate and House summaries describe the goal as expanding housing opportunity while reducing barriers to development.

**Local Implications:** From a Sarasota County perspective, the debate centers on whether housing production can outpace or at least keep pace with pressure on roads, utilities, and public services. Supporters argue the policy is necessary to expand supply; critics argue that reduced local control may intensify infrastructure strain if capital planning and service capacity do not keep up with growth.

**Infrastructure Watch:** Local concern is amplified by transportation funding gaps. Recent reporting on Sarasota County transportation needs cited roughly 573 million raised toward an estimated 2.3 billion need for maintenance and upgrades, underscoring why infrastructure capacity remains central to the Live Local conversation.

**Market Signals:** Recent Federal Reserve data show Florida's median listing price at \$426,000 in April 2026, with year-over-year listing prices down 3.18 percent. That is a useful signal for prospective buyers, but it is

still too early to isolate how much of any price movement can be attributed to Live Local rather than broader market conditions, interest rates, and supply trends.

**What to Watch:** Chamber members and leadership should monitor three issues over the next year: whether qualifying projects move from proposal to construction, how local infrastructure planning responds to added growth pressure, and whether statutory changes such as HB 1389 materially improve housing options for the workforce most local employers depend on.

## **Legislative Update**

Florida lawmakers approved the final \$114.5 billion state budget for fiscal year 2026-27 on Friday, May 29, closing Special Session E. The Senate passed the budget unanimously, and the House approved it 99-6. The constitutionally required 72-hour public review period expired ahead of Friday's votes, allowing final passage that day.

The single most consequential regional provision in the state budget – the transfer of the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee (USF-SM) campus to New College of Florida – was included in the budget approved Friday, May 29. The transfer takes effect July 1, 2026. Under the deal, New College receives USF-SM's 32 acres on Tamiami Trail, new residence halls, and a laboratory under construction. New College must assume full liability for all outstanding debt by December 31, 2026, remitting monthly debt-service payments to USF in the interim. USF students admitted before July 1 retain priority classroom access at the transferred facilities and their residential housing leases are honored through August 15, 2027. USF describes the teach-out as a multi-year process.

A proposal to transfer \$22.47 million in USF-SM funds to New College was ultimately cut from the final budget – USF had warned those funds were necessary to pay for the teach-out and employee salaries. The Venice Area Chamber of Commerce was among the business organizations – representing a coalition of four chambers (members and employees) that wrote to lawmakers urging them not to shut down the USFSM campus, calling it a critical talent pipeline. The broad question raised by regional leaders is what Sarasota and Manatee counties will do to replace the talent pipeline the campus has provided for 50 years. The Chamber will continue to follow the progress of this issue.

## **Did You Know?**

### **Member Opportunity - Venice High School Career Club Internship Support**

Chamber members looking for short-term operational support this June may be able to host Venice High School students through the Sarasota County School District Career Club - Venice Chapter.

### **Program Snapshot**

- No-cost student assistance for participating businesses.
- Students are described as eager to learn and available for workplace support tasks.
- Participation may also provide positive community visibility through school district channels.


## Schedule

- June 1-25
- Monday-Wednesday
- 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
- Transportation provided by the school district

Students are seeking real-world experience and may be a fit for businesses that can provide supervision, simple task assignments, and a short-term learning environment.


## Contacts

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This is a short-term opportunity for a great student program that strengthens school to community connections.

**Reminder:** Teen Leadership Applications are available here:

[venicechamber.com/assets/pdf/Teen+Leadership+Application+-+Class+of+2027/](http://venicechamber.com/assets/pdf/Teen+Leadership+Application+-+Class+of+2027/)