

Chapter 1 – Introduction

**Training Objectives**

**Overall objective:**

To develop an in-state and regional capacity to respond to disasters by providing effective, practical, and comprehensive urban tree assessment training to state agency arborists that is consistent with the Incident Command System framework.

**Specific objectives:**

The project will provide training for three types of pre- and post-disaster tree assessments to help urban and wildland-urban-interface communities respond to and/or recover from natural disasters.

1. Estimates of tree debris before and immediately following a disaster

**objective:** to provide the municipality with acceptable debris estimates at the local level

**method:** using existing storm damage assessment protocol, tree debris volume will be estimated for removal during the initial or prolonged response period.

2. Risk assessment of public trees remaining following initial clean-up

**objective:** to reduce the loss of additional trees during the response phase of the disaster

**method:** evaluate public trees after initial clean-up to determine risk and provide mitigation strategies to reduce public risk

3. Evaluations for restoration of the communities' urban forest

**objective:** to provide professional evaluation of urban tree planting sites to restore the urban forest

**method:** locate and evaluate urban tree planting sites to help restore the urban forest

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Urban Forest Strike Team  
www.UFST.org

Task Specialist Training  
Brooksville, FL  
July 22-24, 2009

Dudley R. Hartel, Center Manager  
Urban Forestry South  
Athens, GA

Dudley R. Hartel UFST Task Specialist Training



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Urban Forest Strike Team

- Introduction to UFST
- UFST in Disaster Response
- Southern Region – UFST Response
- Relationship to ICS

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Introduction to UFST

- Response Events
  - Katrina (pre-UFST development)
  - Oklahoma Ice Storm
  - Virginia Tornado (Paul Revell)
  - Baton Rouge (Gustav)
  - 2009 Ice Storms (AR & KY)
- Strike Team Development
  - NC & VA; UFST Advisory Committee
  - Southern Group of State Foresters

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**Chapter 1 – Introduction**

**UFST in Disaster Response**

- Support Functions
  - ESF-3 (Public Works & Engineering)
- Initial Debris Estimate
- Tree Risk
  - Pre-debris cleanup
    - with or without FEMA debris
  - Post-debris
- Incident Command System (ICS; NIMS)
  - Organizational Structure

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**Disaster Response**

- State U&CF Coordinator
- State Emergency Management
- Disaster Declaration
- FEMA
- ESF Coordinator
  - Mission Assignment
- Sub-tasked Agencies
  - USDA Forest Service
- Resources Mobilize

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**Urban Forest Strike Team**

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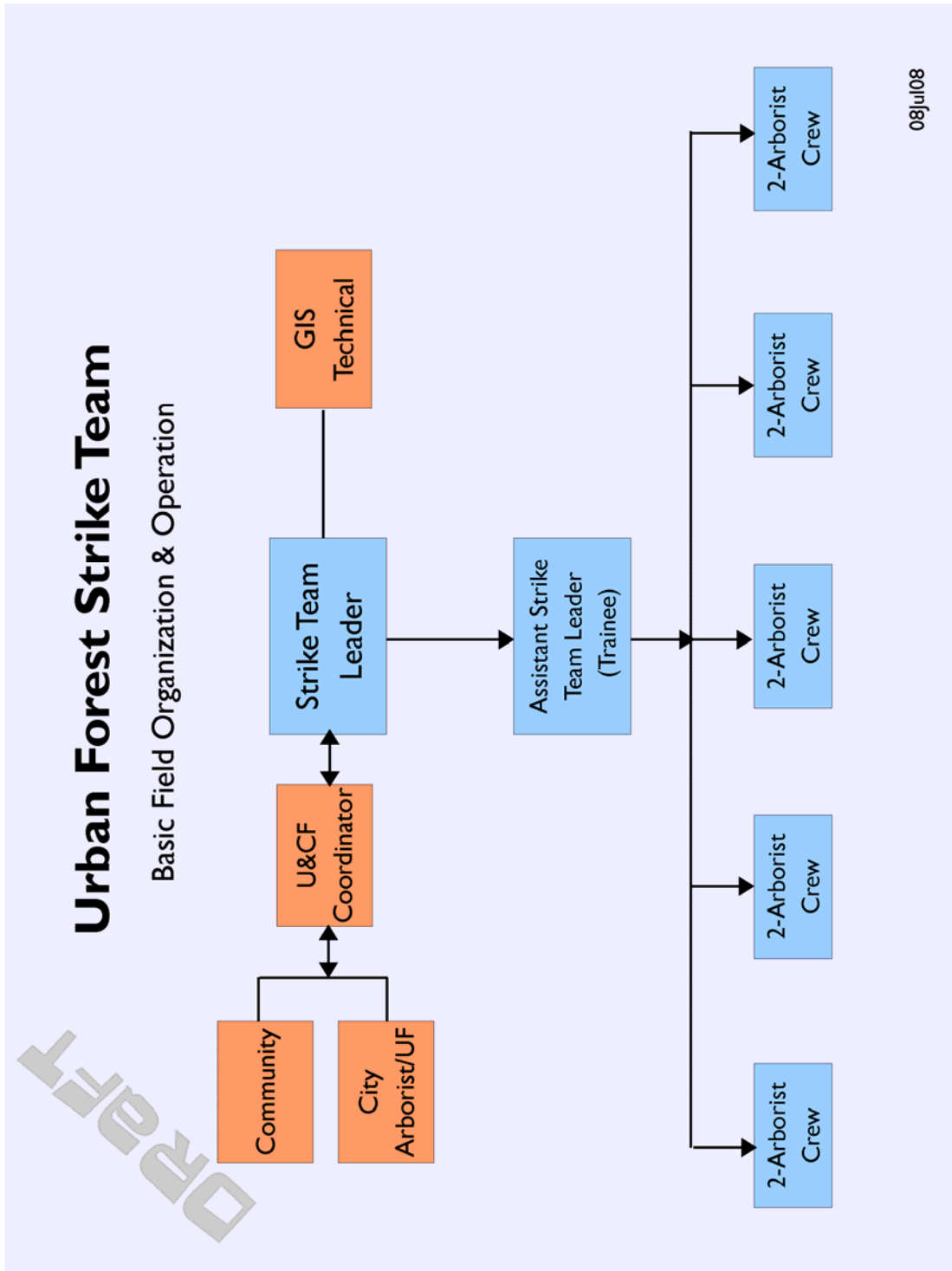
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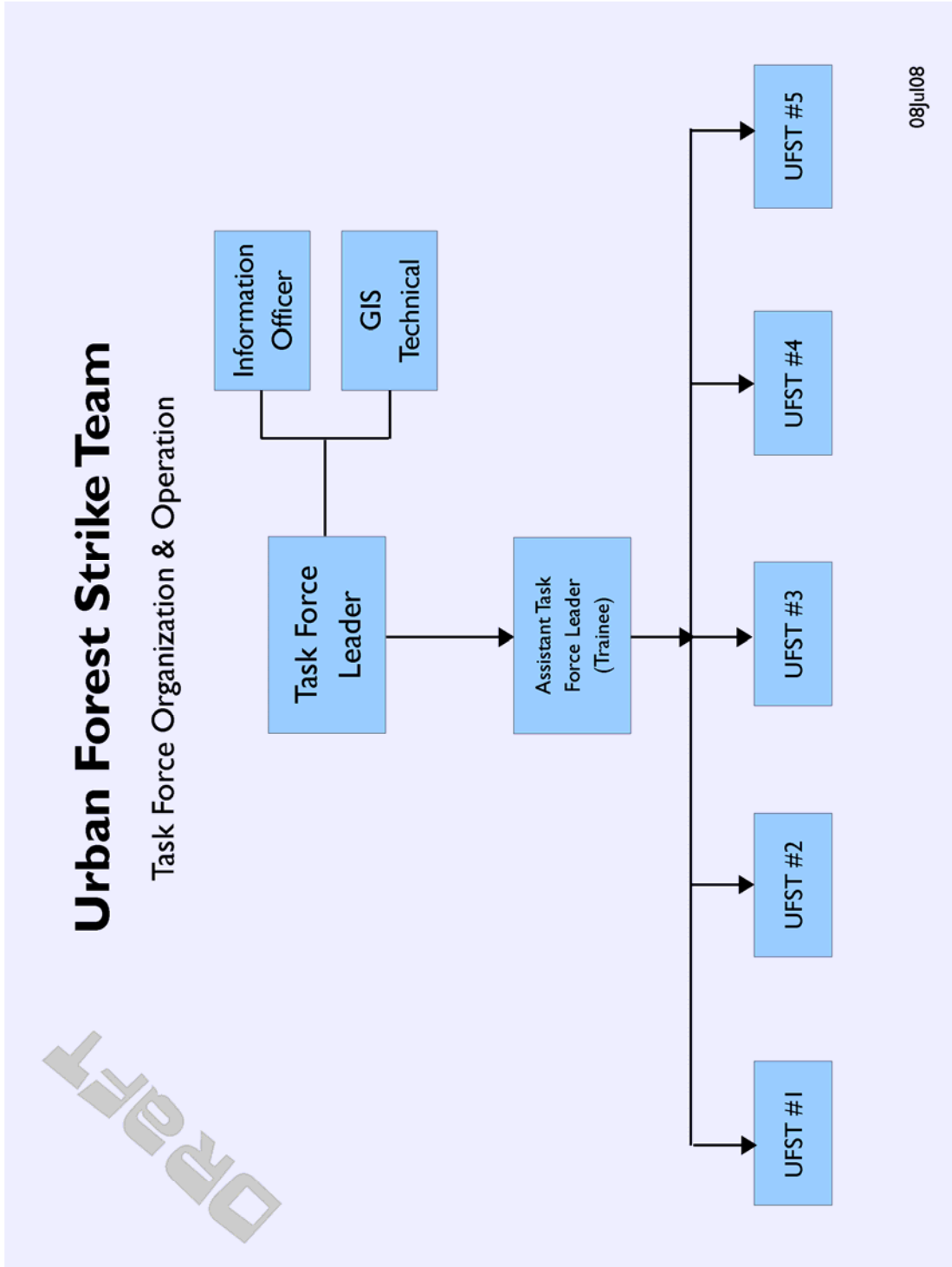
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**Chapter 1 – Introduction**

Urban Forest Strike Team

July 13, 2009

**Code of Conduct**

Draft code of conduct for UFST incident response.

The following general principles<sup>1</sup> apply:

- Lead by example;
- Be proficient in your craft;
- Promote a positive environment;
- Deal with issues directly;
- Empower others to solve problems;
- Treat others as equals and with respect;
- Expect the best;
- Share your knowledge.

Under the UFST Code of Conduct<sup>2</sup> each person is responsible for:

- Being ready and able (physically and mentally) to perform assigned duties;
- Being flexible as duties may change based on community needs;
- Conducting yourself in an appropriate manner at all times;
- Interacting positively with your crew, team, state U&CF Coordinator, and the community.

There is no tolerance for inappropriate behavior while on assignment, including such conduct as:

- Drug and alcohol abuse;
- Unsafe activities;
- Discrimination;
- Sexual harassment;
- Freelancing.

And finally:

- The public deserves and expects your best efforts...let them see us as the professionals that we are.
- Remember, you are a guest in the community where those living in the areas affected by the disaster have suffered loss and trauma.

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<sup>1</sup> From Washington Fire Resources Mobilization Plan.

<sup>2</sup> From Susan Ford (GCTA 2005) and New Kent (VA) Team Leader discussion (2008).