

Alan Harris

Chief Administrator / Emergency Manager

Office of Emergency Management, Seminole County

Alan Harris has worked in emergency services for over 18 years. He began his career while completing his degree from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Fla.

Harris's first position in emergency services was for the Gainesville Fire Rescue Association, a student group at the University of Florida. One year later, he was recruited for work with the Alachua County Fire Rescue Department. While in Alachua County, Harris developed the public information/outreach division, restructured the reserve/volunteer core and developed the first EMS bike team. Harris responded to multiple emergencies including the 1998 wildfires, the worst wildfire outbreak in Florida history. He was deployed to Flagler County during that year, the only county in Florida to be completely evacuated during a disaster.

In 1999, Harris moved to Orlando and started work for the Altamonte Springs Fire Department. In 2002, he served as a member of the public affairs team for the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah. That same year he was deployed to the Mallory Swamp Fire, the largest wildfire in Florida history. In October 2002, Seminole County merged with the Altamonte Springs Fire Department.

Harris currently serves as the Chief Administrator / Emergency Manager for Seminole County Office of Emergency Management. His first night on the job in emergency management was Aug. 13, 2004, the day Hurricane Charley hit the state of Florida. During the 2004 hurricane season, Harris served as Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Manager for Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Jeanne, and was deployed to Pensacola to assist the Escambia County EOC after Hurricane Ivan. He has managed incidents including the Tropical Storm Fay 2008 (the worst flood in recorded history in Central Florida), Suwannee River Flood 2009, Operation Haiti Relief 2010 (the largest repatriation in the United State history), Trayvon Martin civil unrest events of 2012, State of Florida vs George Zimmerman nationally recognized trial, Pulse Nightclub Mass Casualty Incident in 2016 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

Harris is a co-chair on the Regional Domestic Security Task Force, Regional Chair of the Executive Group for the Urban Area Security Initiative, Area Governor for the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association, Emergency Management Chair for the State Executive Group on Homeland Security, and Coordinator of the Central Florida Type-3 Incident Management Team. In 2012, he was selected as Intelligence Liaison of the Year for the disruption of three domestic security events. In 2013, Harris was recognized as the Emergency Manager of the Year for the State of Florida.

He teaches numerous Federal Emergency Management Agency and Department of Homeland Security courses.

Harris has achieved the Professional Emergency Manager certification by the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association and was awarded the Certified Emergency Manager designation by the International Association of Emergency Managers.

