Volusia County's Fire Rescue Technical Rescue Team (TRT), joined by Volusia County Sheriff's range deputies, became the first team in Florida to receive training at the "Technician Level" for Animal Technical Rescue.

The training, provided by the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine and its "UF VETS" Disaster Response Team, meets all criteria for the soon-to-be published National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 2017 updated standards for Animal Technical Rescue for NFPA 1006 and 1670. This two-day intensive course addressed several advanced topics including helicopter rescue operations, extended-lifting duration harnesses for livestock, highline operations including system modifications to safely support the weight of livestock, pickoff/rescues from elevated platforms, ice rescue, tender assistants, and high-angle/low-point edge transitions. This course is approved by the Florida Department of Emergency Management and eligible to be covered by federal training funds.

The training focused on modifying human rescue techniques to adapt to the requirements of managing animal victims. The course also provided a venue for the trainees to practice their human rescue skills, learn new techniques that address human rescue and animal rescue needs, and work with state-of-the-art equipment including the CMC MPDs.

The training was conducted at the Volusia County Fire Rescue Training Center, which by combining its current classroom, tower and trench box systems, created an ideal location to maximize student engagement. The course was kept to approximately 20 students to ensure participants obtained sufficient hands-on experience to meet all training requirements associated with the NFPA standards.