



**Florida Trauma 2030**  
Summary from the Florida Committee on Trauma  
Approved May 29, 2026

**Focus:** Develop a vision for the future of the Florida trauma system to ensure optimal care for the injured patient in Florida.

**Key Areas of Focus:**

- Alignment with ACS Standards
- ACS Consultative Visit
- Trauma Centers in Florida
- Disaster Management & Emergency Preparedness
- Trauma Centers/EMS Partnership



**FCOT Leadership Consensus:**

The FCOT Leadership Consensus, reaffirmed April 10, 2026 by the FCOT Executive Committee, includes:

- Reaffirm the Mission and Values of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma (COT)
- Endorse alignment of Florida Trauma Standards with ACS Guidelines
- Support collaboration with the Florida Department of Health
- Strongly advocate for reconstitution of the Florida Trauma System Advisory Council (FTSAC)
- Strongly advocate for an ACS Consultative Visit for Florida
- Support a consistent and transparent rules-based structure to Trauma System oversight inclusive of all trauma system stakeholders

**Alignment with ACS Standards**

The ACS COT continues to define and verify standards of trauma care, including:

- Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS)
- Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient
- Trauma Systems Consultation Guide: Essential Elements, Framework, and Assessment for State and Regional Trauma System

The Florida Committee on Trauma (FCOT) is committed to aligning the Florida Trauma Standards with the ACS trauma standards.

## **ACS Consultative Visit**

FCOT is committed to supporting a statewide ACS Consultative Visit to ensure that the Florida trauma system remains a viable network of trauma centers that provides coverage for the majority of the population, while delivering good outcomes as measured against national benchmarks. The most recent ACS Consultative Visit was performed in 2013. FCOT will continue to collaborate with the Florida Department of Health on budgeting, initiation, and follow-through.

## **Trauma Centers in Florida**

FCOT is committed to ensuring access to trauma care in Florida. This is particularly important as the population in Florida continues to grow. As of May 1, 2026, Florida has 36 trauma centers:

- Level I: 11
- Level II: 22
- Pediatric (Standalone): 3

Existing Florida Statutes provide guidance for distribution and designation of Level I and Level II trauma centers in Florida. Considerations for trauma center distribution in Florida include:

- Whether there is a need for Level III trauma centers in Florida
- Considerations for verification as a Level III trauma center (e.g., verification standards, transfer agreements)
- Considerations for funding Level III trauma centers in Florida
- Ensuring adequate training and staffing of all trauma centers in Florida (current and future)

## **Disaster Management & Emergency Preparedness**

The state trauma system is at the heart of disaster management and emergency preparedness (DMEP). DMEP priorities for the future of the Florida trauma system include:

- Statewide Mass Casualty Incident
- Stop the Bleed Training
- Large-Scale Combat Operations
- Regional Medical Operations Coordinating Centers

### **Statewide MCI**

The Florida trauma system must be prepared for a mass casualty incident (MCI) where the amount and severity of injuries overwhelm the capabilities of the local trauma system. FCOT, through its Disaster Management & Emergency Preparedness/Stop the Bleed Committee, is committed to supporting Statement MCI activities to ensure a prepared statewide response to a real MCI. Statewide MCI response includes considerations for Regional Medical Operations Coordinating Centers (see below).

### **Stop the Bleed**

Proper DMEP requires continued promulgation of the Stop the Bleed training in Florida.

### **Large-Scale Combat Operations**

Military planners are concerned that large-scale combat operations (LSCO) involving United States Military personnel are likely in the near future. The date mentioned most frequently by military

planners is 2027. The most likely theaters for these events is the Indo-Pacific (Taiwan, Korean Peninsula), Eastern European NATO countries and the Middle East and Arabian Gulf areas. The most likely potential adversaries are China, North Korea, Russia and Iran. The worst case scenario is simultaneous conflicts in all of these areas. It is anticipated that in the first 90 days of LSCO, there will be 100,000 to 200,000 US military casualties. This number would quickly overwhelm Military and Veterans Administration medical capabilities. Therefore, the civilian health system, particularly Trauma Centers, will be called upon to care for military casualties in large numbers.

Florida has a robust and ongoing experience with disaster management, particularly natural disasters (hurricanes). Additionally, several Florida hospitals and trauma centers have developed impressive military-civilian partnerships. These experiences and relationships should be developed to provide leadership. These experiences and relationships should be developed to provide leadership. FCOT is committed to bringing awareness to the importance of LSCO preparations.

### **Regional Medical Operations Coordinating Centers**

A Regional Medical Operations Coordinating Center (RMOCC) is an operational coordination hub, activated during incidents. The purpose of an RMOCC is to manage real-time patient distribution, bed availability, resource allocation, and situational awareness among hospitals within a region. RMOCCs help prevent any one facility from becoming overwhelmed.

FCOT recognizes that LSCO and disasters likely realities, rendering RMOCC preparation essential to the future of the Florida trauma system. RMOCC preparation requires the commitment of Florida stakeholders, including:

- Florida's health system
- Florida Department of Health
- Florida EMS
- Pulsara (and its statewide implementation)
- Florida Hospital Association
- Florida Healthcare Coalitions
- Medical examiner(s)
- Others

Operationalizing a RMOCC must consider:

- Organization structure & staffing
- Facility requirements
- Operations (e.g., infrastructure tools, information technology, communication system)
- Availability and sustainability of funding
- Scalability and sustainability

### **Trauma Centers/EMS Partnership**

Ensuring optimal care for the injured patient in Florida requires continued partnership between statewide trauma and emergency medical services (EMS) entities and productive collaboration between Florida's trauma centers and local EMS agencies.

## **Additional Information**

### **Mission: American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma**

To develop and implement programs that support injury prevention and ensure optimal patient outcomes across the continuum of care. These programs incorporate advocacy, education, trauma center and trauma system resources, best practice creation, outcome assessment, and continuous quality improvement.

### **Vision: American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma**

To eliminate preventable deaths and disabilities across the globe by preventing injury and improving the outcomes of trauma patients.