

TO: Archaeological Resource Management (ARM)-trained monitors

FROM: The Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State

DATE: March 27, 2013

SUBJECT: Change in historical resource management procedures as taught in ARM training; elimination of "pre-testing" by land managers

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The Bureau of Archaeological Research of the Division of Historical Resources (DHR) has recently updated course material taught in Archaeological Resource Management (ARM) training. Specifically, we have streamlined the compliance and review process and simplified the "Matrix" used to help land managers make decisions about balancing ground disturbances and stewardship of historic sites. The most important change we have made to our training program is the elimination of "pre-testing," or allowing the excavation of archaeological test pits without a professional archaeologist present. The revised policy reflects 1) our 1A-32 archaeological research permit standards and 2) a realization that pre-testing has not generated results useful for identifying and protecting historical resources. We anticipate that these changes will simplify the DHR Compliance and Review process for most projects.

Naturally, our training courses are always evolving; anticipate more revisions and updates in the coming year. We will make you aware of changes as they slowly become incorporated into procedure, but until then, note that newly-trained ARM Monitors hold the most up-to-date information. ARM Monitors trained prior to 2012 may wish to take a refresher course.

As some of you may know, the contact person at DHR for state lands, Susan Harp, is now retired. Until we hire a replacement, you should direct all questions about ground disturbance to DHR Compliance and Review (850-245-6333). Enclosed is a copy of the ARM Guidelines and ARM Matrix for your reference. Please remember that the list of common ground disturbances is not comprehensive. If you have a question, feel free to consult DHR for assistance.