

AVMA Situation Report – Colorado Wildfires

Date: 10/30/03

Report

AVMA disaster resource information and VMAT deployment information has been sent to the CO State Veterinarian, the CO VMA, and the CO Emergency Management Agency.

Disaster information packets are being prepared for AVMA members in Boulder and Denver, Colorado.

The VMAT have not been activated at this time.

For the latest information about the fire visit

<http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CSFS/fire/csfsfire.html>

Colorado State Animal Response Team Update

October 29, 2003, 7:30pm

We have had a remarkable day on the Front Range, with a number of fires appearing under dreadfully dry and windy weather conditions. We now have the Overland Fire near Boulder (at 4000-5000 acres), Cherokee Ranch Fire in Douglas County, near Castle Pines (over 100 acres and growing), a large grass and brush fire along I-76 in Morgan County (which appears to be mostly contained and not creating significant animal issues) and a report of a small fire near Evergreen that was quickly controlled (this is not a confirmed report).

At this time, animal issues appear to be under control. The following summarizes the status of each incident:

Overland Fire

- **Horses and livestock:** Being accepted at the Boulder County Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds are not full, but have a significant population of evacuated horses. The Mile High Chapter of the American Red Cross has opened a shelter at another part of the fairgrounds which offers some horse owners the opportunity to be near their horses and assist in their care. I participated with a conference call with ARC this evening for a while and they reported that their shelters do not have any animal issues at this time. They did report that there were a number of horses in trailers on the highway near the fire zone, possibly due to owners who are reluctant to go all the way to the fairgrounds until they were certain they would not be allowed into their homes later tonight. This situation does not be a source of concern at this time.
- **Companion animals** are being accepted by the Humane Society of Boulder Valley and the Longmont Humane Society. HSBV reported 4

evacuated dogs this evening and LHS reports 10 evacuated animals in their care.

- Boulder County has not requested outside resource assistance at this time.

Cherokee Ranch Fire

- Horses and livestock: There is a considerable evacuation area with space available at the Douglas County Fairgrounds for these animals.
- Companion Animals: The Buddy Center (DFL) is prepared to accept animals, but has had limited intake of evacuated animals. DFL's Denver facility is prepared to move adoptable animals from the Buddy Center to Denver to create additional room if needed.
- Supervising ACO Joe Stafford reports that ACO's are working to remove pets from the evacuated area and have horse transportation issues under control. They do not feel they need outside resources at this time.

General Comments

- There has been contact throughout the day with key SART personnel, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Office of Emergency Management and local personnel. This has been a difficult day for many people and brings back some vivid reflections of the events of 2002 for all of us. There is little question that this situation reinforces the decision by the animal stakeholders in Colorado to develop SART and a statewide network of County Animal Response Teams is absolutely essential.

SART Plan for 10-30

- Monitor the situation closely and keep the lines of communication open to assure that resource support is available if needed.
- Maintain a "Standby" status for area animal resources from outside Boulder and Douglas counties in case the situation changes for the worse.
- Issue updates 10-30 for SART stakeholders.
- Both the American Humane and Code 3 Associates animal rescue trucks are engaged in southern California and are currently unavailable (and better used where they are at this point).
- Animal Rescue Kennel (ARK) is fully stocked and available for use if needed. CFAWA's cargo trailer containing equipment and supplies necessary for a stand alone companion animal shelter. This trailer would appropriately be used in association with an ARC evacuation shelter when co-location of an animal shelter in proximity to a human shelter is needed.
- Two fully-stocked livestock evacuation supply trailers are available and can be deployed if needed.

Contact Information

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