

State of Oklahoma Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

ESF #11

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES ANNEX

STATE COORDINATING AGENCY: Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF)

SUPPORTING AGENCIES:

United States Department of Agriculture/Animal Plant Health Inspection Services/Veterinary Services (USDA/APHIS/VS)

- a. Veterinary Services- Area Office
- b. Wildlife Services

Department of Health

Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA)

Department of Wildlife Conservation

Department of Emergency Management

Department of Transportation

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

American Red Cross

Department of Public Safety and Oklahoma Highway Patrol

Oklahoma Military Department

Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security

ASSISTING AGENCIES: American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) Accredited Zoos

Oklahoma State University-College of Veterinary Medicine (OSU-CVM) & Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (OADDL)

I. PURPOSE.

A. The purpose of this Emergency Support Function (ESF), #11 Annex is to coordinate state and other government agencies and volunteer organizations to provide all animals affected by a man made or natural emergency with emergency medical care; temporary confinement, shelter, food and water; identification and tracking for return to the owner; and, ultimate disposition of dead or unclaimed animals. Coordination will also involve identification and prevention of diseases of public health significance in conjunction with this plan's ESF, #8 Public Health and Medical Annex.

The ODAFF will coordinate with the federal government for assistance provided with the National Response Plan's (NRP) Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11, Agriculture and Natural Resources. Specific Foreign Animal Diseases (FAD) will require an integrated Federal, State, local and tribal response using the NRP, ESF #11 and are addressed in a FAD standard operating procedures document maintained by ODAFF.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Animal and Plant Disease and Pest Response (APHIS), and Food Safety and Security Supply (FSIS), provides nationwide support in major areas of food supplies, plant disease and infestation, and inspection and verification.

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II. SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS.

A. Situation.

1. Natural or man made emergencies could occur within the boundaries of the State of Oklahoma that could require the coordinated use of all veterinary resources available.
2. Adequate resources are available within the boundaries of the State of Oklahoma to meet most foreseeable short term emergencies.
3. Foreign Animal Diseases, as well as certain zoonotic diseases, as incidents of national significance, activate ESF #11 of the NRP.

B. Assumptions.

1. All emergencies involving veterinary services and animal care will be managed in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
2. The ODAFF represents animal health concerns of the state and maintains close liaison with USDA/APHIS/VS, OVMA , the Department of Health and other departments and or agencies representing veterinary medicine, public health, agriculture, native and non-native wildlife, humane societies, and animal control agencies.
3. The Incident Command System organization will be a unified command consisting, of a minimum, the Veterinary Emergency Triad (VET). VET will consist of the Oklahoma State Veterinarian or designee, the USDA/APHIS/VS Area Veterinarian in Charge or designee, and a designated representative of the OVMA. In the event of an FAD or a zoonotic disease, the third member of the VET will be the State Public Health Veterinarian or designee, rather than an OVMA representative.
4. VET is responsible for the coordination of all state animal and veterinary public health related concerns associated with man made or natural emergencies.
5. VET will develop Memoranda of Understanding with agencies and/or groups as needed for supplemental emergency resources.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS.

A. General.

1. VET will coordinate and maintain communication with the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (OEM) during all emergency operations. VET shall determine the scope and duration of ESF #11 according to the type and size of emergency.

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B. Phases of Management.

1. Mitigation.

a. Develop plans, procedures, and organizational structure needed to ensure that domestic animals and native and non-native wildlife are effectively controlled and cared for in the event of an emergency.

b. Develop a network of state and local government offices, non-government organizations and volunteers to assist in the preparation and operational phases of emergency veterinary services and animal care.

2. Preparedness.

a. Identify and maintain a network of available state, county, and local resources.

b. Participate in training sessions and exercises.

c. Assist local groups in development of emergency and disaster preparedness plans.

d. Provide (in cooperation with USDA/APHIS/VS) veterinary and public education regarding surveillance and notification of suspected foreign animal diseases.

e. Ensure that administrative and accounting procedures are in place to document actions taken and all costs incurred during emergency operations.

3. Response.

a. Following notification of an emergency by OEM of any type of emergency potentially involving animals, VET will perform the following functions:

(1) Select and contact appropriate animal care personnel.

(2) Designate personnel authorized to enter disaster area and provide this information to OEM.

(3) As requested, provide a representative to the State of Oklahoma Emergency Operations Center.

(4) Consolidate incoming animal management reports and maintain situation reports.

(5) Coordinate with other governmental authorities in establishment

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of emergency aid stations and staging of emergency relief.

(6) Coordinate with other governmental authorities in matters of evacuation.

(7) Cooperate with other governmental authorities in matters of equipment use and provision of transportation.

(8) Cooperate with mutual aid operatives

(9) Coordinate with law enforcement personnel in maintenance of security of veterinary medical facilities and supplies.

(10) Coordinate with public information operations to communicate alert status, volunteer mobilization, and casualty and damage information.

(11) Temporarily arrange for or provide food, water, shelter, and medical care for all affected animals.

(12) Recommend methods of proper disposal of dead animals in coordination with appropriate support agencies.

(13) When medical facilities are unavailable, permit the use of veterinary facilities and equipment for temporary human medical care by appropriately credentialed individuals during extreme emergencies involving mass casualties.

(14) Coordinate initial identification and rescue efforts to facilitate recovery of lost animals by their owners.

(15) Coordinate distribution of donated resources (such as pet food and veterinary supplies).

b. Additionally, if the emergency incident is a FAD or zoonotic disease, VET will also perform the following functions:

(1.) Provide recommendations and supervise prevention and control of the disease.

(2.) Institute and supervise bio-containment and bio-security methods appropriate to the emergency situation.

(3.) Coordinate with law enforcement personnel in maintenance of animal or vehicle movement restrictions.

4. Recovery.

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- a. Coordinate and organize long term care options for unclaimed and displaced animals.
- b. Continue to assist in the return of animals to their owners.
- c. Provide documentation on injuries and /or deaths of animals and events resulting from the emergency.
- d. Coordinate the distribution of any remaining supplies received solely for the purpose of the emergency event.
- e. Assist in identification of owners for animals destroyed during disease eradication activities.
- f. Comply with national and international movement restrictions for purposes of removing trade embargos.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES.

A. General.

This plan makes use of the organizational structure approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture establishing Veterinary Emergency Triad (VET) as the lead authority in all animal related emergency operations.

B. Organization.

VET will coordinate the agencies/organizations/individuals responsible for providing the related support services. These shall include, but not be limited to:

1. State and Federal Veterinarians and Animal Health Technicians
2. Volunteer and Humane Organizations
3. OVMA District and Alternate District Veterinarians
4. OSU-CVM & OADDL
5. Local (Field) Veterinarians
6. AZA Accredited Personnel
7. Wildlife Control Personnel
8. Certified Veterinary Technicians
9. Licensed Animal Control Officers
10. Local Animal Shelters
11. Animal Care Providers

C. Assignment of Responsibilities.

1. In emergencies that are not defined as Incidents of National Significance, the

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Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) shall be the lead coordinating agency. ODAFF shall provide a representative to VET, coordinate local, intrastate, and interstate agencies and provide a designated media contact person.

2. ESF #11 of the NRP prescribes that USDA coordinate this function in an emergency that activates the NRP. The USDA will provide a representative to VET and supply personnel who will act as designated agents of the ODAFF. Additionally, USDA will act as liaison with all other federal agencies.

3. The Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) shall provide a representative to VET in the event of an emergency that is not a foreign animal disease or zoonotic disease. This representative will contact and coordinate OVMA District and Alternate District veterinarians' response. OVMA will coordinate veterinary relief services and serve as the liaison to the American Veterinary Medical Association. Primary responsibility for coordination of donations shall be with OVMA.

4. The Oklahoma Department of Health will provide a representative to VET in the event of an emergency that is a FAD or zoonotic disease. This representative will contact and coordinate the veterinary public health response. The Department of Health will assist in epidemiological support and communication to the public about the health and significance of the disease.

5. The Oklahoma State University-College of Veterinary Medicine (OSU-CVM) shall provide support and services. The Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (OADDL) shall, with prior financial approval, provide laboratory services, support and testing.

6. OVMA District, Alternate District and local veterinarians will be involved in the immediate response at the local level. For larger scale disasters they will be integrated into the ODAFF response, recognizing that they will be critical in coordinating with local volunteer/humane groups, local animal control officers and animal shelters.

7. All other agencies and organizations will supply available assistance as needed and requested by VET.

V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL.

The initial point of contact is the ODAFF VET member, who will contact the USDA/APHIS/VS VET member and the OVMA or Department of Health VET member.

VI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT.

During emergencies, designees of each agency comprising VET (ODAFF, USDA/APHIS/VS, and OVMA or the Department of Health) shall insure the line of succession of authority is maintained.

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VII. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.

To enhance preparedness, VET will serve with the staff of the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management in mock and actual disasters.

VIII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE.

1. VET members shall meet at least once annually to review this Annex to the State EOP.
2. VET members shall ensure that necessary updates and revisions to this Annex are prepared and implemented, based on deficiencies identified in exercises and emergencies.
3. Changes to this Annex shall be coordinated with OEM and distributed to all holders of the State Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).