

ANNEX 17

ANIMAL/AGRICULTURE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

PRIMARY: Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health (CULPH)

SUPPORT: As directed within the SCEOP, each supporting agency will respond to coordinate the emergency activities of its department for a declared earthquake disaster.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Following a strong earthquake, there will be damage to barns, fences, and other enclosures that may lead to the release of animals that subsequently roam about unrestricted, endangering the health and safety of humans. There will also be losses to animal and crop-related businesses in affected areas.
- B. Approximately 60% of the displaced households will have companion animals requiring medical care and sheltering. In addition to companion animals, a large number of horses and other livestock in the area will be affected, both by injury and by food/water deprivation.
- C. The State should expect a large number of animals requiring care and sheltering. In addition, there may be carcasses needing disposal.
- D. ESF-17 will prepare for disaster response using the Operational Area Concept and worst case loss estimation data in Attachment C to the Basic Plan.

II. MISSION

To coordinate veterinary medical care, sheltering, and carcass disposal of animals following an earthquake. To coordinate animal-and agriculture related data during and after emergency response.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. Response operations will use an Earthquake Checklist that will be executed following a strong earthquake. Activities in the Earthquake Checklist do not replace required activities normally assigned to ESF in the SCEOP and supporting ESF SOP. The Checklist activities are to ensure that critical actions are completed or continuing at the appropriate time during an earthquake response. See Attachment A to this Annex for Checklist.

- B. As soon as feasible, the professional animal community should start the relief effort. The three main categories of animal response following an **earthquake** are those in need of immediate veterinary medical attention, sheltering, stabling, and the removal and disposal of animal carcasses.
- C. ESF-17 will:
1. Coordinate the medical care for all injured animals following an earthquake.
 2. Coordinate with local emergency managers to implement their county animal-agriculture response plans, and request veterinary assistance from outside the state.
 3. Identify high-density animal populations at risk in the Operational Areas.
 4. Estimate the number of Large Animal Rescue Teams (LART) and other personnel resources needed in each Operational Area.
 5. Develop a listing of resources available within and outside the State to conduct search and rescue of companion animals, livestock and to provide support in management of wildlife species.
 6. Coordinate with USDA concerning animal injury and disease, animal carcass disposal, and animal/agriculture-related public health concerns, coordinating with other Federal agencies as needed.
 7. Develop requirements for maintaining the health of pets and livestock after the earthquake.
 8. Coordinate with SCEMD public information director to prepare earthquake-specific press releases on pet shelters, medical care, and animal carcass disposal following the earthquake disaster.
 9. Assist with development and implementation of an animal sheltering/stabling plan based on the Operational Area concept to include identifying transportation requirements.

IV. **ESF ACTIONS**

The emergency operations necessary for the performance of this function include but are not limited to:

A. Preparedness

1. Identify animal farms and agricultural sites at risk in each Operational Area.
2. Develop a list of resources available in each Operational Area and within and outside the State to conduct search, capture, and treatment of companion animals and livestock, and to provide support in management of wildlife species. This may include Large Animal Rescue/Response Teams (LARTs).
3. Develop plans to use in the Operational Area concerning animal injury and disease, carcass disposal, and animal/agriculture-related public health concerns, coordinating with USDA and other Federal agencies as needed.
4. Prepare pre-scripted earthquake-specific press releases on companion animal shelters, stables, medical care, and carcass disposal following the earthquake.
5. Identify and coordinate with facilities that could provide emergency medical care, hospitalization, and safe storage of feed for animals.
6. Assist with development of an animal sheltering/stabling plan based on the Operational Area concept to include identifying transportation requirements.

B. Response

1. Implement ESF-17, Earthquake Phased Checklist, Attachment A to this Annex.
2. Coordinate with other ESFs and Operations/Tasking Group at the SEOC to determine the priorities and requests for assistance.
3. Implement the plan for sheltering/stabling animals which may include providing assistance with animal transportation, monitoring/tracking shelter activities, providing emergency medical care, hospitalization, responding to requests for supplies, and safe storage of animal feed.
4. Coordinate with ESF-18 on donated supplies for animals.
5. Implement the plan to obtain and coordinate personnel resources to respond to animal-agricultural needs in the Operational Areas. This

may include search and rescue as well as support for management of wildlife species.

6. Coordinate requests for assistance concerning animal injuries and disease, carcass disposal, and animal/agriculture-related public health concerns.
7. As much as possible, determine the conditions of the large-scale animal farms in the area. Process damage assessment information to determine needs for assistance.
8. Coordinate with SCEMD Public Information Director to release public information related to animals and agriculture.

C. Recovery

See Recovery Section, Annex 17, (ESF-17) to the SCEOP.

D. Mitigation

See Mitigation Section, Annex 17, (ESF-17) to the SCEOP.

V. **RESPONSIBILITIES**

CULPH

- A. Identify animal farms and agricultural sites at risk in the Operational Areas.
- B. Estimate the number of LARTS and other mobile teams required in each operational area, and develop corresponding plans to mobilize and deploy teams.
- C. In coordination with SCDHEC and other support agencies, develop plans concerning animal injury and disease, carcass disposal, and animal/agriculture-related public health concerns.
- D. Prepare pre-scripted earthquake-specific press releases on companion animal shelters, stables, veterinary medical care, and animal carcass disposal following the earthquake disaster.
- E. Identify and coordinate with facilities that could provide emergency medical care, hospitalization, and safe storage of feed for animals.

- F. Assist with development of an animal sheltering/stabling plan based on the Operational Area concept to include identifying transportation requirements.
- G. Develop a list of resources available within and outside the state to conduct search, capture, and treatment of companion animals and livestock, and to provide support in management of wildlife species. This may include Large Animal Rescue/Response Teams (LARTs).
- H. Assist with damage assessment of farms and agricultural premises.
- I. Coordinate resources during response and recovery for requests concerning animal sheltering/stabling, animal injury and disease, animal carcass disposal, and animal/agriculture-related public health concerns.
- J. Review and update ESF-17 Earthquake Checklist.

VI. FEDERAL INTERFACE

This Annex has no direct counterpart in the National Response Framework (NRF). However, Federal ESF-11 (Agriculture and Natural Resources) functions include Animal and Plant Disease/Pest Response in the NRF. This response includes the implementation of an integrated federal, State, and local response to an outbreak of a highly contagious animal/zoonotic disease, an outbreak of a highly infective exotic plant disease, or an economically devastating plant pest infestation. Further, Federal ESF-8 (Public Health and Medical Services) is responsible for agriculture safety and security, and the protection of animal health under the National Response Plan. Agriculture safety and security includes the safety and security of food producing animals, animal feed, and therapeutics. Protection of animal health includes ensuring the safety of the manufacture and distribution of foods and drugs given to livestock and companion animals.

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ESF-17 (Animal Emergency Response)

Date/Time Complete

1. * _____ Coordinate with other ESFs and Operations/Tasking Group at the SEOC to determine the priorities and requests for assistance.
2. * _____ Implement the plan for sheltering/stabling animals which may include providing assistance with animal transportation, monitoring/tracking shelter activities, providing emergency medical care, hospitalization, responding to requests for supplies, and safe storage of animal feed.
3. * _____ Coordinate with ESF-18 on donated supplies for animals.
4. _____ Implement the plan to obtain and coordinate personnel resources to respond to animal-agricultural needs in the Operational Areas. This may include search and rescue as well as support for management of wildlife species.
5. _____ Coordinate requests for assistance concerning animal injuries and disease, carcass disposal, and animal/agriculture-related public health concerns.
7. _____ As much as possible, determine the conditions of the large-scale animal farms in the area.
8. _____ Process damage assessment information to determine needs for assistance.
9. _____ Coordinate with SCEMD Public Information Director to release public information related to animals and agriculture.

***NOTE:** All Checklist activities listed are essential, and should be completed. However, Checklist activities denoted with an asterisk are critical, and should be completed first. Other action items can be executed simultaneously to expedite response actions.

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