Welcome to the third unit in the USDA APHIS Animal Care Introduction to Animal Emergency Management Course. Last time we ended the session with an introduction to the six key animal emergency response mission areas. Today we are going to discuss those Animal Emergency Response Missions from the perspective of local responders. Because Animal Care’s role in animal emergency response is to support local and state response efforts, an understanding of local and state response is essential to our role. Before we move into today’s topic, are there any questions from last time?

By the end of this presentation you should be able to do the following:
1. Identify and utilize the information in the Animal Emergency Response Mission Summary Worksheets
2. Describe how each of the Animal Emergency Response Missions can be incorporated into the Incident Command System
3. Briefly describe how Public Information/Media Management, Donations Management and Volunteer Management may significantly impact animal response missions

Before we begin our discussion of state and local emergency response efforts, let’s talk a little bit about how and when Animal Care would be activated to assist in a state or local response and what roles it would play.

Generally, Animal Care personnel are not among those first on the scene after a disaster. Activation of Animal Care during an emergency response involves several steps. When a disaster occurs, the first response is local. If the disaster is too large to be handled locally, state responders assist. If the disaster cannot be managed with state and local resources, the state will request a federal disaster declaration. Once a federal disaster declaration is issued, large-scale federal involvement begins. Before a Federal declaration is issued, Federal agencies typically only become involved in matters only under their own statutory authority; not through FEMA.

Based on the Federal disaster declaration and State requests, FEMA writes a mission assignment to activate Animal Care. Activation will occur within a few days or weeks of the incident. In most cases, local responders continue to manage tactical response operations. In some cases as in the event of a hurricane, a surge (pre-incident) mission assignment will activate Animal Care before the incident occurs.

It is important that we in Animal Care understand local and state responses and know the individuals leading local response efforts. Our efforts in Animal Care will be much more effective if we supply resources to an effective infrastructure that is already in place. Today’s presentation will assist you in understanding how state and local responses operate and enable you to better support these responses.
Animal Care personnel may be deployed to perform a number of missions that support state and local responses to disasters. These missions include providing:

- Support to State and local response pertaining to facilities regulated under the Animal Welfare Act. This is a statutory mission that does not need a FEMA mission assignment.
- Assistance under an ESF #11 Mission Assignment

AC personnel may be asked to provide:

- Subject matter expertise on household pets at FEMA or State locations
- ESF#11 Desk Officer Support
- Pets mission support, which could include leading and staffing a multi-agency coordination unit or supporting a similar State-led task force.
- Field response missions
- Technical assistance and assessment
- Direct support of operational missions
- Some zoos, aquariums, and research facilities could be supported via a FEMA mission assignment if they are public entities and the State requests assistance from FEMA for those facilities.

We will discuss these missions in detail in future modules, but keep them in mind during today’s presentation. Today, we will discuss how state and local responses operate to enable you to better support these responses.

Mission Summary Worksheets describing each of the Animal Emergency Response Missions are found in your course materials. These worksheets provide a general overview the mission, authorities, resources, planning and operational issues and training opportunities associated with the mission.

Let’s talk about the worksheets and how they are laid out. Please follow along using one of the worksheets from your course materials. You can find them under the Unit 3 in your course materials.
**Mission Subtasks**
This section defines the specific areas of responsibility for the mission.

**Key Terms and Definitions**
Provides definitions of terms specific to that mission.

**Typical Local Authorities and primary (immediate) resources**
This section will help identify the Local and State authorities typically responsible for the immediate response and sources of resources.

**Authorities**
Many of the same Local and State authorities will be responsible for each of the six missions. This slide lists the main authorities involved in all six of the response mission areas.

- **Local:** Animal control, public safety/law enforcement, emergency management, public health
- **State:** Public safety/law enforcement, emergency management, public Agricultural agencies or animal health officials may have significant primary authority over livestock issues. Some mission areas will involve additional authorities with specialized knowledge and skills. For example, animal decontamination may involve environmental protection and health agencies. Check the specific mission worksheet for details.

**State and Local Resources**
The Stafford Act mandates State and local emergency plans account for the needs of household pets and service animals. State and local emergency response agencies have animal response resources available from several sources. Animal Care encourages State and local agencies to incorporate those resources in an effective disaster response plan prior to needing them for an emergency response. Understanding what resources are available and how they can be acquired is essential to both planning and response efforts.

In some instances, APHIS Animal Care could become involved with local response if facilities regulated under the Animal Welfare Act are threatened or impacted. In those situations, AC could provide assessment, technical support and on-scene technical support as part of the local or State response without FEMA issuing a mission assignment.
Local resources can come from local, state, tribal and non-governmental organizations. Local resources for the Animal Emergency Response Mission Areas may include; emergency management and public service agencies, local/regional incident management teams, local animal control agencies, Community Animal Response Teams (CARTs) or similar volunteer agencies, Cooperative Extension agents, and Veterinary Medical Reserve Programs and many others.

Some of the most common resources are listed on this slide.

There are several ways State, tribal, local and territorial governments can arrange to receive resources from other groups.

In an emergency local political subdivisions begin by managing the response using their resources and personnel. Additional resources may come from other local jurisdictions or non-governmental organizations through mutual aid agreements or memoranda of understanding.

Mutual aid agreement: Legal agreements between two or more jurisdictions, corporations or agencies that plan to assist each other in case of an emergency. (Heath p 167)

For all local, state, tribal, federal or non-governmental organizations: Mutual aid agreements are an important tool in getting the needed resources.

Memorandum of Understanding: A formal written document describing the terms of an agreement between two or more parties.

Master Mutual Aid Agreements: Some States have developed a MAAs which are single broad agreements signed by the Governor on behalf of all State agencies and local jurisdictions and, in some cases, non-governmental organizations. Master MAAs provide a baseline mechanism for sharing resources immediately during a crisis with the terms in effect until a more incident-specific agreement is negotiated.

In California, local authorities effectively used MOUs in planning prior to the 2007 fires. As a result, humane organizations were able to begin to provide assistance early in the event and establish shelters at Qualcomm Stadium and Fiesta Island.

States can request additional resources from neighboring states and other entities through two pathways;

EMAC: The Emergency Management Assistance Compact

EMAC is a nation-wide system of agreements among states to provide assistance in the form of personnel or resources. EMAC requests will be discussed in more detail in Unit 4.

MOUs or MAAs with non-governmental entities:

AVMA VMAT: Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams; through a MOU with the state can serve as first responders to provide animal care during disasters.

SART (State Animal/Agricultural Response/Resource Team and similar organizations could support each other through mutual aid, although many SART-related resources might best be shared through EMAC.

NARSC: National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition.

All of these options will be discussed in detail in Unit 4.

States can request resources from FEMA via an Action Request Form. FEMA can then provide direct assistance or mobilize resources from organizations such as USDA, HHS (National Veterinary Response Team), and a variety of other federal agencies such as DOD, EPA, DOI as well as private sector contractors.

FEMA Individual Assistance Technical Assistance Contracts are a mechanism of last resort to access a robust pool of private sector resources to support sheltering and mass care, including the care of household pets and service animals.
The Key Planning and Operational Issues Section of the mission worksheets describes the planning and operational issues essential to the mission area. For this presentation we are going to highlight the planning and operational issues common to all mission areas. There may be other issues specific to particular mission areas. Consult the mission worksheets for additional information.

**Planning**
- Mission team must be connected to jurisdictional ICS authority
- Adequate communications (cellular, satellite, radios) between responders, supervisors, and the Incident Command Post is essential.
- Credentialing and ID badges
- Adequate transportation (boats, vehicles, aircraft)
- Maps, GPS
- PPE and required safety measures

For each mission area, local agencies must develop plans and prepare for the event. Each mission area will have unique planning and preparation requirements. This slide lists some of the planning requirements common to all mission areas. Efforts must be coordinated between the mission area and central management in the ICS. Agencies assigned to particular missions develop mission guidelines, train personnel, and provide PPE, communications equipment and suitable transportation, if necessary. *Photo: FEMA, Scott Bauer*

**Safety & Communication**
- Ensure safety of response personnel
- Identify PPE needed for missions
- Ensure responders are instructed in the proper use of PPE
- Make sure communication plan is in place

Ensuring the personal safety of response personnel and field observers is a key objective for all mission areas. Because safety is so important, we are mentioning it again as a separate point. Remember that safety includes identifying the PPE needed for the missions and making sure that responders are instructed in the proper use of PPE.

Communication between the ICS and team members in the field is essential. Make sure the communication plan that will work given the conditions of the response is in place. *Photo: FEMA, Scott Bauer*

**Training Opportunities**
- Online courses
- Classroom Instruction
- Hands on courses
- Shadowing
- NASAAEP Best Practice Working Group on Training

If you’d like to learn more about a particular mission area, training and development opportunities for each mission area are listed on the Mission Worksheets. Training opportunities range from on-line courses in ICS, and HAZMAT training to hands on courses through government agencies and NGOs as well as opportunities shadow personnel during an actual incident. Animal Care is sponsoring a NASAAEP Best Practice Working Group on Training that is working to identify and bring consensus concerning the numerous training issues and challenges. Your supervisor and Regional Emergency Programs Manager can help guide your interest in receiving mission-specific training.

**References**

Each sheet contains a reference section you can consult for further information.
In this section, we are going to use a scenario to illustrate how the Animal Emergency Response Missions fit within the Incident Command System in a local response. Your course materials contain a reference guide and a worksheet that accompany this scenario. Please find those materials and refer to them as we work through the scenario.

This section will focus entirely on a local response. In this scenario FEMA and USDA are not directly involved. Understanding what happens at the state and local levels will aid you as an Animal Care employee in providing assistance and resources to the local response. Later modules will address AC support roles in a response.

Imperial County is in the State of Columbia. The county has a population of 150,000. Central City is the county seat. It has a population 100,000. Much of the county is agricultural land dotted with small towns.

Illustration: CFPH: Oriana Hashemi-Torogi

Imperial County and Central City have a City-County Emergency Plan which includes an animal emergency management plan. Imperial County Animal Control provides animal control services for the county and has a contract to provide services to the city. The Central City Humane Society provides animal sheltering. Under the City-County Animal Emergency Plan, Imperial County Animal Control is the lead agency for animal emergency response. The Animal Control Manager is designated as the Animal Response Group Supervisor under the City-County Emergency Response Plan.

This is how Imperial County has planned to incorporate animal response into their local ICS structure. The Animal Response Group will stand up under the Public Safety Branch of the ICS Operations Section.
It’s mid-June in an unusually wet spring. During the past week, Imperial county received approximately 4 inches of rain, causing minor local flooding. The streams are high and the ground is saturated. Strong thunderstorms are predicted throughout the day and the National Weather Service issued an advisory for severe thunderstorms with a potential for heavy rain, hail, strong winds and tornadoes.

Rain starts in the early morning and at 9:30 am a tornado touches down near the town of Jefferson (population 2,000).

As heavy rain continues to fall, evacuations are ordered in Central City as well as several smaller towns within the 100 year flood plain. 

Illustration: CFSPH, Oriana Hashemi-Toroghi

Management of the incident occurs from the Incident Command Post (ICP). The City County Emergency Plan designates the Central City Police Station as the ICP. The Incident Command Post is opened and the Imperial County Sheriff and the Central City Police Chief assume their roles as Incident Commanders in a unified command. They deploy teams to the incident to help with various aspects of the response. The Animal Control Manager reports to the ICP to assume her role as the Animal Response Group Supervisor.

The Plan also calls for the establishment of an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which serves to coordinate information and resources. It is located in the Imperial County Courthouse. The County CART (County Animal Response Team) Coordinator, a trained volunteer who is a veterinary technician, reports to the County Emergency Operations Center to help with resource coordination.

The role of the ICP is COMMAND and the role of the EOC is responsibility for jurisdictional coordination and support. In an alternative to the plan in this scenario, an ICP could be supported by multiple EOCs. Together the Animal Response Group Supervisor at the ICP and the County CART Coordinator at the EOC will work together as the hub for a rapid needs assessment. 

Illustrations: CFSPH: Oriana Hashemi-Toroghi
Upon arriving at the ICP, the Animal Response Group Supervisor is informed of the following:

- Approximately 1,100 households in Central City are located in the 100 year flood plain and another 50 are in the 100 year flood plain in outlying areas of the county. A staging area is being set up to support citizen evacuations in Central City.

- There are unconfirmed reports of damage to 1 dairy farm, a local Co-op building, and estimates that 10 houses on the outskirts of Jefferson are also damaged. Riverside Vet Clinic in Central City is in the evacuation area.

- The Red Cross has been asked to open a shelter at the County Fairgrounds on the outskirts of Central City and to open a smaller shelter at the community center in Jefferson.

- The Public Safety Branch Manager asks the Animal Response Group Supervisor to provide input on the response actions needed for animals and the resources needed to mobilize a response.

- Please list the initial response issues in Section 1 on the Imperial County Disaster Scenario Worksheet found in your course materials.

**Instructor Notes:** Please have course participants complete Section 1: Initial Assessment on the Imperial County Disaster Worksheet. Based on the scenario described, participants should list the initial response issues. Use the next slide to discuss the issues.

Response issues include:

- Flooding in Central City and outlying areas
  - Evacuating citizens and their household pets from flooded homes or area subject to flooding
  - Establish a staging area to support evacuation efforts

- Sheltering for people and animals evacuated from flooded or storm damaged areas (cont’d next page)
  - Shelter for people
  - Shelter for pets
  - Shelter for livestock

- Assess damage from tornado
  - Dairy farm, Co-op building
  - Homes in Jefferson
  - Riverside Vet Clinic in Jefferson

- Assistance with establishing shelters

Based on the scenario and the initial response issues you just identified, and using the 6 mission areas to identify and discuss what should be done in this situation as part of the local response. **Note:** The 6 mission areas are listed in the Scenario Reference Guide.

**Note to presenter:** Initiate a discussion of what the Animal Response Group Supervisor needs to find out, and what the Animal Response Group needs to start working on Examples of issues;

- Rapid needs assessment
- Resources
- Situation reports

**After discussion**

Now we are going to look at one possible way ICS principles can be applied to this situation. Remember, that an ICS organizational chart for the Animal Response Mission may take on different forms depending on the type of incident and nature of the response. There is no one correct way to design the ICS chart.
The Animal Response Group Manager needs to quickly determine an initial course of action and incorporate it into incident operations. The next slides describe the resources currently available. Consider these resources and how they can be used in the response. (These resources are listed on the Scenario Reference Guide in your course materials.)

The Animal Response Group Manager knows from the County Animal Emergency Annex and the initial assessment that:

- The Central City Humane Society and Cooperative Extension are the leads for animal sheltering.
- The show barn at the fairgrounds is designated in the county’s plan as a collocated shelter site.
- Jefferson Veterinary Hospital and Kennel has volunteered to be the emergency pet sheltering site for the Jefferson area.
- There are 7 Animal Control officers, including supervisors and 4 AC trucks available to assist with the response.
- One ACO with a truck is operating near Jefferson – he is currently taking shelter in a school due to the tornado warning and hazardous weather.
- One ACO with a truck is at the Central City Humane Society Shelter.
- The other trucks are not in service and parked at the Humane Society Shelter.

The 12 people with horse trailers from the Imperial Equestrian Association have volunteered to help with livestock evacuation. They have completed ICS training and have CART IDs and vehicle placards.

The local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has trained volunteers available. These volunteers have had some basic training in supporting animal response missions.

In short, Imperial County has done good work in creating its plan. As we move through this scenario, think about how much more challenging this would be if no plan were in place.

Please complete Section 2: Initial Priorities and Resources on the Scenario Worksheet, focusing on identifying initial priorities and the resources available for the Animal response missions identified.

Photo: FEMA, Scott Bauer

**Discussion**

What would you as Animal Response Group Supervisor (ARGS) report as initial priorities?

**Note to Presenter:** Discuss participants’ responses to on the Initial Priorities and Resources section.

Items that should be mentioned as initial priorities include:

- Safety of personnel
- Damage Assessments
- Opening shelters
- Organizing and deploying volunteers

These will be discussed in detail in the upcoming slides.

**Recommendations**

Safety is the top priority in all response missions. The ACO near Jefferson is instructed to hold his position until the weather is all clear. Requiring responders to check in at a designated site when deployed is another safety precaution. All Animal Response Group personnel will be asked to check-in at the designated site for the incident. The Animal Response Group Supervisor will provide a list of their response personnel to the ICP for check-in purposes. Checking in is an important step for many reasons, including safety, accountability, and cost-tracking. It ensures all responders are accounted for and that they receive initial briefings regarding their role in the response and particular safety issues.
The second priority is to provide evacuation support to the citizens. Items under this response mission include:

- Providing pet evacuation messages to the public. In this scenario, the CART Leader can work with the JIC on this.
- Supporting evacuation efforts using Animal Control personnel. This could be done by having a Senior ACO in Central City lead the evacuation team at the staging area with support from other ACOs and trained CERT volunteers.
- Sending a strike team to the Riverside Veterinary Clinic to assess the situation and provide support.
- Staging the livestock trailers and personnel provided by the Imperial Equestrian Association and CERT at the Fairgrounds in preparation for livestock evacuation.

Sheltering is the next priority. A temporary collocated shelter for pets and livestock will be established at the Fairgrounds. The Central City Humane Society and Cooperative Extension will take the lead with support from CART volunteers. Strays, animals with an unknown owner and dangerous animals will be housed at the Central City Humane Society facility rather than the collocated shelter. Jefferson Veterinary Hospital and Kennel will be contacted about acting as an emergency shelter and accepting pets from the Jefferson Area once the tornado threat has passed.

The Animal Response Group Supervisor relates the Public Service Branch Manager who gives an oral OK to the plan. The Animal Response Group Supervisor briefs the Ops Section Chief and makes sure that the incident documentation and Incident Action Plan will note the Animal Response Group’s operation plans. Examples of the ICS forms used to document the plan are listed on the slide.

Here is what the Animal Response Group looks like.

The sheltering team is working to establish the shelter at the fairgrounds and the shelter at the Jefferson vet clinic. The evacuation team is in the staging area with the ACOs and CERT volunteers and is also coordinating the Imperial Equestrian team members with trailers at the Fairgrounds. The assessment team is providing staff at the Animal Care facility and also includes the ACO who is on-site in Jefferson.

What could the ARGs do to continue to assess response needs?

Complete Section 3: Continued Assessment on the Imperial County Disaster Scenario Worksheet and discuss the participants’ responses before moving to the next slide.

For continued assessment of the situation, ARGs should:

- Assign observers, such as ACOs with radios, to check on specific locations.
- Monitor calls from the public to animal agencies, 911, dispatch, or first responder agencies for information about community animal needs.
- Monitor media reports.
- Contact key animal resources, such as veterinary hospitals, kennels, livestock production facilities, etc. to obtain status reports.
- Monitor reports from the collocated shelter and Red Cross shelter regarding animal response needs.
Let’s look a little more closely at the evacuation and transportation mission. In general, the evacuation and transportation mission supports owners evacuating their animals, evacuates pets for owners who rely on public transportation, supports the expedient evacuation of animal facilities, and provides suitable transportation for groups of evacuated animals. Let’s see how these roles apply to our flooding scenario.

This diagram shows how the Evacuation and Transportation is organized. The AC Supervisor at the Central City Staging Area leads the group which is divided into two teams: Citizen support and Animal Facility Evacuation.

The Citizen Support team includes CERT/CART volunteers assigned to ACO officers to assist in evacuating the animals of people who need assistance with evacuating. CERT/CART volunteers are stationed at checkpoints in the evacuation area to escort people returning to retrieve their animals and with the livestock trailer teams staged at the Fairgrounds.

The Animal Facility Evacuation Team consists of staff from kennels and veterinary hospitals who are transporting animals and CERT/CART volunteers who escort them through checkpoints.

The current situation is rapidly escalating. Approximately 3,000 families are evacuating from Central City. Re-entry is not being allowed. About 100 people who had been at work have asked to re-enter to retrieve pets. Responders are going door-to-door to advise people of the evacuation warning and to help people who need assistance evacuating. At least 25 people needing assistance evacuating also need help transporting their pets.

Riverside Veterinary Clinic and Kennels, which is in the evacuation area, has about 75 dogs, cats, and birds to evacuate. Two other kennels and two veterinary hospitals have agreed to accept the animals, but need access and help transporting the animals. Two requests to transport livestock were received and quickly accomplished.

Here is what the Animal Sheltering Mission looks like. It is jointly led by Cooperative Extension and the Central City Humane Society. It is involved at three sites: the fairgrounds, the Central City Humane Society Shelter and the Jefferson Veterinary Hospital. Animals have been arriving at all three sites and the mission leaders are keeping track of the space available and anticipated needs at each facility.

The Sheltering Team leader might use a table like the one on the slide to track the number of animals currently at facilities and the total capacity of each facility and aid in making decisions about resource allocation.
The weather forecast is for more rain the next three days and additional evacuations may be necessary. Animals are arriving at all 3 shelter sites. The CART Coordinator at the EOC spearheads the identification of additional resources and volunteers.

Complete Section 4: Sheltering Resources on the Scenario Worksheet with your responses to the following questions:

Based on what you have seen and the predicted additional rainfall, do you think more sheltering resources will be necessary? **Yes** is correct response.

What sorts of options are available?

Would mutual aid be important soon? What if surrounding communities are likewise overwhelmed? Would assistance from one or more national organizations be necessary?

**Note to Instructor:** The discussion should address the issues below.

Options for filling need for additional sheltering supplies and volunteers can include:

- Support from additional community organizations
- Mutual aid from surrounding jurisdictions, including NGOs
- Request to NGOs at state or national level
- Request to State (if State declared disaster)

These options will be discussed in greater detail in future modules.

Another assessment update arrives. The tornado danger has passed and the rain has stopped.

In Jefferson, twelve homes are badly damaged or destroyed, 33 houses have less damage. Local Search and Rescue personnel are conducting a house to house search to check for victims. Twenty two households have been evacuated.

Brown Cow Dairy farm was badly damaged and there are reports of injured and dead cows trapped in a collapsed barn. At the Co-Op, the building that sells hatchling chickens is badly damaged.

The Animal Search and Rescue Team is activated. The ASAR Group’s mission is to:

1. Provide SAR Operations Support in Jefferson – Support the SAR teams searching houses that encounter animal issues (example: dogs interfering with SAR team access to houses) and transporting stray or injured pets to Jefferson Veterinary Hospital. Staff includes an ACO officer, veterinary technician.
2. Provide Operations Support at the Dairy and the Co-Op – This will include one ACO to assess conditions at the COOP pertaining to chicks or other animals and the remainder (1 veterinarian, a Brand Inspector from the State, and two CART volunteers with training in technical animal rescue) will begin operations along with fire-rescue personnel at the Brown Cow Dairy.
Another assessment arrives.

- Veterinary medical support is needed at the emergency animal shelter at the fairgrounds.
- The veterinarian on-site at the Dairy is requesting trained veterinary support personnel to help treat injured cows.

The Animal Response Group assesses the available resources and sends a veterinarian and two veterinary technicians with supplies to the Fairgrounds. A local livestock practitioner has agreed to visit the fairgrounds twice a day and be on call for emergencies. Two veterinary technicians are sent to the dairy.

Jefferson Veterinary Hospital continues to treat animals and reports ample surge capacity remaining.

Did anyone remember the baby chicks? The ACO finds that COOP employees removed them from the building and took them home!

The veterinary medical response mission is carried out by assigning veterinary medical teams to other missions.

Veterinarians and other veterinary personnel are assigned to the Sheltering Team to support efforts at the Fairgrounds.

Veterinary personnel are also assigned to assist with the response at the Brown Cow Dairy.

As the flood waters rise, the SAR teams are starting boat-based searches of the flood area. They request CART personnel to assist with the searches.

Several animals, including pets and livestock, have been pulled from flooded areas and taken to the fairgrounds. Veterinarians and shelter personnel have recommended that the animals be decontaminated as they enter the fairgrounds.

A simple protocol for bathing the animals using soap and water is instituted, making sure that personnel performing the decontamination wear gloves, waterproof barrier gowns/aprons, and rubber boots. These animals are marked for close observation and isolated from other animals in case they have contracted a gastrointestinal disease from sewage contaminated flood waters.

Illustration: CFSPH, Oriana Hashemi-Toroghi

Here is an overall view of the Animal Response Group

**Evacuation Mission:** Currently reduced in scope until new evacuations are ordered

**Sheltering Mission:** Split between Fairgrounds and Jefferson Veterinary Hospital – has veterinary medical teams and decontamination teams

**Animal Search and Rescue Mission:** Support SAR in Central City and in Jefferson in the town and at the Brown Cow Dairy

**Veterinary Medical Care:** Support fairgrounds shelter, and Jefferson shelter, Support SAR teams in Jefferson and Brown Cow Dairy, support animal decontamination SAR and sheltering
Discussion

1. Could the animal response have been organized differently?
2. How valuable was the local planning?
3. Would you say that Imperial County had a good animal plan? Why or why not?

As we just learned from the scenario, the animal emergency response mission is just one part of a much larger emergency response. All of the response areas in a mission are interconnected and what happens in one area can affect other response areas or the entire mission.

In this next section we are going to discuss three general incident mission areas and show how they may directly impact animal emergency response.

Part 3: General Incident Missions Impacting Animal Emergency Response

Public Information and Media Management

- Communication with public is essential
  - Inform public of situation
  - Actions public needs to take
  - Clear messages regarding evacuation and sheltering of animals
- Public interest and media focus on animal stories

During an emergency, communications with the public about the event and required or recommend actions are essential. Along with messages about the situation, and required actions people need to take, there also must be clear messages regarding the evacuation and sheltering of pets and other animals as well as information about other animal issues.

Additionally, the public is very interested in animals and animal-related stories and the media may focus on animal-related stories to satisfy the public interest.

Photo: FEMA, Louis Sohn

Incident Public Information Officer (PIO)

- Communicates with the public
- Collects information from PIOs, coordinates with PIOs at local and State EOCs
- Presents unified, consistent message
- All information releases through PIO, including animal issues

The Incident Public Information Officer (PIO) is the person within the ICS who is responsible for creating/coordinating and disseminating messages to the public regarding the incident. All information releases must go through the Incident Public Information Officer. Communications about animal issues also must go through the PIO for distribution to the public. The Incident PIO collects information from PIOs at other Emergency Operations Centers and presents unified, accurate public messaging.

Joint Information Center (JIC)

- Centralized location for public information personnel
- May have JICs at various levels of response
- Supports Joint Information System (JIS)
  - coordinate and integrate information
  - timely and consistent messages across multiple agencies, jurisdictions, organizations

During a response a Joint Information Center (JIC) may be established to provide centralized location for personnel with public information responsibilities. JICs may be established at various levels of government or at incident sites.

In a more complex incident, all JICs work to support the Joint Information System (JIS). The JIS is established to coordinate and integrate information and produce a timely and consistent message across multiple agencies, jurisdictions or organizations.

Photo: FEMA, Mark Wolfe
When a disaster strikes, many people look for ways to help. Individuals and companies may donate money or supplies. Managing donations is important to ensure that resources are organized and used efficiently.

The receipt and handling of donations must be coordinated through ICS or EOC, but NGOs are most often the end recipients of donations. In some cases, a donations management team (DMT) may be established at the EOC to work with NGO partners to manage donations.

The efforts of NGOs and charitable organizations are essential to emergency response. While fundraising during a disaster is essential, organizations must exercise discipline in making sure incident information used in appeals is cleared through the Incident PIO.

**Question: What do you think about all the stacks of food and supplies in this photo?**

**Answer:** Vary in brand and type considerably. Probably from individual donations. Could vary in quality and age (be suspicious of partial bag donations). Difficult to manage in large incidents compared to palletized, shrink-wrapped donations direct from corporate donors.

*Photo: C. Huston*

Communication with the public regarding the need for donations is also essential. The Incident PIO should manage donations messages made to the public. Without clear public messaging about the types of donations needed and NOT needed, drop-off locations, a response could be overwhelmed with useless donated items.

Donations that might impact animal response could include money, animal feed (pet food, hay, etc.), building space (for temporary shelters), transport vehicles and trailers, cages and kennels, bowls, blankets, litter, and a host of other supplies.

S.T.U.F.F. = Some Things Unfit For Folks

Black bag trucks = trucks filled with unsorted donations, many in black plastic bags, more STUFF

*Photo: FEMA, Jason Pack*

Many people want to help disaster victims. Volunteers can provide valuable assistance to response and recovery efforts; however, volunteers must be trained and supervised to make sure they are an asset and not a liability.

A number of volunteer organizations such as SARTs/CARTs, Citizen Corps, and organizations affiliated with local, State or National VOADs exist to coordinate efforts of people willing to volunteer during an emergency. These programs provide training and credentialing for their members to prepare them to work during a response.

In addition to assistance from organized volunteer organizations, individuals unaffiliated with organizations may arrive offering to help. Spontaneous volunteers will have various degrees of training and experience. These individuals can either be an asset or liability, depending on how they are managed. Some communities have designated an organization, such as a volunteer center, to manage unaffiliated volunteers during emergencies.

ICS needs to manage volunteers to utilize their skills in positions where they can best assist the response effort. Just in Time Training may assist in teaching volunteers enough to allow them to contribute to the response and recovery efforts.

*Photo: FEMA, Jacinta Quesada*
Conclusion

You should now be able to:
1. Locate information on the Animal Emergency Response Mission Fact Sheets
2. Discuss how each Animal Response Mission can be incorporated into ICS
3. Describe how missions such as Public information/Media management, Donations management and Volunteer management can affect animal response missions.

Questions?

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