Health and Safety
Responder Conduct and Behavior

Code of Conduct

- Collection of rules, principles, behaviors, expectations
- Significant and fundamental for successful response
- Interaction of large number of persons
- Public perception

- Professional and courteous manner
  - All team members, other responders, supervisors, general public
  - “On” and “off” duty
- Treat all with respect
  - Without harassment, victimization or discrimination
  - Avoid public criticism
  - Avoid offensive or profane words/actions

- Honesty and with integrity
  - Do not misrepresent yourself
  - Illegal activities prohibited
  - Do not work under the influence of alcohol, non-prescription medication
- Do not jeopardize safety of others
- Maintain confidentiality
- Comply with regulations and policies
  - Affected jurisdictions
  - Response agencies

Supervisors

- Follow chain of command
- Communication
  - Progress, concerns, conflicts
  - Promptly report
    - All injuries and accidents
    - Any unsafe conditions

Communication

- Test radios/phones prior to departure
  - Check batteries often
  - Replace as needed
- Speak slowly and clearly
  - Repeat unclear messages
- Avoid using names over radio
- Keep messages short, professional
- Do not interrupt those on same frequency
Know Your Limits

- Be aware of current fitness level
- Stay within personal limits
- Effects on health
  - Activity level
  - Extended shifts
  - Reduced sleep

Personal Safety

- Personnel accountability
  - Check in and check out
  - Buddy system
- Do not self-dispatch or act independent of response
- Work within your physical capabilities and training
- Avoid risks of injury to yourself or others

Responder Responsibilities

- Comply with established work rules
- Follow safety policies, procedures
- Report unsafe conditions
- Report all injuries to supervisor
- Wear personal protection equipment
- Refuse to perform any dangerous tasks
- Constant awareness of surroundings
  - Location of incident

Driving and Vehicle Use

- Responders are responsible
- Must have a valid drivers license
- Response tasks or basic needs
  - Meals, grocery store, hotel
- Obey all traffic laws
  - Seatbelts required
- Do not use cell phones

Vehicle Guidelines

- Keep alert
- Do not drive when drowsy
- Set realistic goals for daily miles
- Avoid taking depressant medications
- Do not consume/carry alcohol
  - Do not drive if impaired
- Do not smoke in vehicles

Vehicle Accidents

- Report all accidents/damage
  - No matter how minor
- Damage not the result of accident
  - Falling objects, fire, hailstones, etc.
Public Interaction

- Respectful
- No false or misleading information
- Avoid conflicts of interest
  - Bribes, gratuity
  - Report to supervisor
- Cognizant of public perception
  - Be aware of actions at all times
  - Publicly accessed sites and impact on business
    - Live bird markets, custom slaughter plants

Public Communication

- Misinformation and rumors can cause panic
- If approached by media, stakeholders or public
  - Limit or avoid answering questions
  - Refer them to the Public Information Officer
    - Ensures consistent messages delivered

Resources

- USDA Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness (FAD PReP) Guidelines: Health and Safety
- USDA NAHERC Deployment Guide, March 2010
  - https://fadprep.lmi.org

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