



Health and Safety

Responder Conduct and Behavior



Just In Time Training 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

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Code of Conduct

- 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

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Code of Conduct

- 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

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Supervisors

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

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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

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Know Your Limits

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



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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

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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

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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



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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

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Vehicle Accidents

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



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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

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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



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Resources

- USDA Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness (FAD PReP) Guidelines: Health and Safety
 - http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emrs/naheims.shtml
- USDA NAHERC Deployment Guide, March 2010
 - <https://fadprep.lmi.org>

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Authors: Dan Taylor, DVM, MPH; Glenda Dvorak, DVM, MPH, DACVPM



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