

Health and Safety During a Response:

Responder Security



Just as health and safety measures will be needed for responders during an animal health emergency, security procedures will also be essential to protect responders, the response site, as well as the public.

Site and Personal Security

Site Control Plan

- All animal health emergency responses should have a site control plan which includes:
 - Site map and boundaries
 - Site work zones
 - Site communication procedures
 - Safe work practices (e.g., buddy system)
 - Medical assistance instructions

Work Zones

- The use of work zones ensures:
 - Personnel entering the worksite are properly protected against hazards while working
 - Work activities and contamination are confined to appropriate areas
 - Personnel can be located quickly and evacuated if necessary

Site Security

- Limit unauthorized access to the work site
- Establish site boundaries; Post signs at perimeter
- Ensure adequate lighting
- Maintain log book for persons entering and exiting
- Designate security personnel or law enforcement

Personal Security

- Follow established security measures
- Adhere to the chain of command
- All responders must be accounted for at ALL times
 - Communicate through established methods (e.g., cell phone, radio)
- Enter/exit through designated points
- Work in pairs
 - Stay in close visual contact; assist as needed
 - Observe for signs of distress or trouble
 - Seek emergency assistance if needed
- Be aware of surroundings
 - Note any unauthorized or suspicious persons

Off-Site Safety

Dealing with Non-Cooperative or Threatening Persons

Situations may arise where the actions, behavior or language of an owner/occupant of a premise, or another member of the public, may cause concern for one's personal safety. Situations can escalate quickly

- Travel in teams or with buddy
- Carry cell phone at all times
- Remain calm; avoid confrontation
- Leave if safety concerns exist
 - Call supervisor, team leader or police
 - Document and report the incident
- Interference is violation of US Code

Aggressive Dogs

- Be aware of surroundings
- Listen for barking and observe when entering
- Do not enter when unrestrained dogs are present or if barking is heard by no dog seen

Additional Resources

USDA Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness (FAD PRoP) Health and Safety Guidelines
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/downloads/nahems_guidelines/fadprep_nahems_guidelines_health_safety_final_16may2011.pdf

OSHA Emergency Preparedness and Response Safety and Health Guidelines
<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness/guides/ind ex.html>

Development of this educational material was by the Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University through funding from the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture MOU-2011-HSEMD-012. December 2011. Revised July 2014.

