

Checkpoint Set-Up and Operation



During animal disease emergencies the establishment of vehicle checkpoints may be necessary to monitor, screen, and guide animal transport vehicles.

Vehicle Checkpoints

- Identify vehicles with infected, exposed, or susceptible animals
- Restrict entry into disease areas
- Redirect vehicles

Checkpoint Set-Up

- **Location**
 - Public road or property
 - Well-traveled, easy-access
 - Flat, straight section
 - Large enough to allow vehicle movement and spacing
 - Vehicle holding area
 - Cleaning and disinfection area
 - Away from animal production sites
 - All-weather
 - Access to water, sewer, and electricity
- **Equipment and Supplies**
 - Road supplies
 - Traffic cones and barricades
 - Signage to inform drivers
 - Reflective vests
 - Lighting
 - Maps
 - Animal supplies
 - Pens or shelter
 - Handling equipment
 - Shade, fans, or water spray
 - General supplies
 - Tables, chairs
 - Shelter
 - Communication devices
 - Water

➤ Checkpoint Personnel

- At bare minimum – 2 people
- Animal health
 - To provide animal movement knowledge
 - Veterinarians/technicians, extension
- Law enforcement
 - To control vehicle traffic and enforce laws
 - Police departments, military, conservation officers
- Cleaning and disinfection
 - To assist with C&D procedures
 - Fire departments, HazMat Teams
- Support
 - To set up screening procedures, animal assistance
 - Road crews, public works

Checkpoint Operation

- Identify vehicles
- Flaggers and screeners determine if vehicle is:
 - Allowed to proceed
 - Returned to point of origin
 - Moved to temporary holding area for cleaning and disinfection or animal off-loading
 - State veterinarian will specify vehicles, commodities, and animals for screening

Operation Considerations

- **Documentation**
 - Vehicle information and records help animal health officials track and trace the movement of animals – including origin and destination.
 - This helps to determine areas of concern and the level of risk of exposure for the animals.
 - Accurate record keeping is essential.
 - Documentation may include:
 - Date/time at checkpoint
 - Checkpoint location
 - Vehicle and driver information
 - Owners name
 - Vehicle contents
 - Point of origin and destination
 - Health papers and shipping documents
 - Action taken: allowed to proceed; returned to point of origin; diverted to holding area

➤ Communication

- Between checkpoint and Incident Command
 - Two-way radios, cell phones
 - Computers
- Communication with the industry, associated/affiliated industries, such as trucking companies, and public regarding the vehicle checkpoint will be essential.
- DOT message boards can be used to relay information and can improve patience and compliance with the checkpoint process.

➤ Cleaning and Disinfection

- Cleaning and disinfection may be a necessary step before transport vehicles can leave a checkpoint location.
- This infection control measure can reduce the risk for disease spread to additional areas.
- Most situations will involve spot C&D, such as undercarriage and tire washes.
- If more intense C&D is required, set-up should be established in a holding area at the checkpoint.
- Any material falling or leaking from stopped vehicles must be scooped up, absorbed and the area cleaned and disinfected.
- Supplies
 - Disinfectants
 - Equipment: brushes, buckets
 - Berming material
 - Personal Protective Equipment
- Personnel will need to disinfect before leaving checkpoint

➤ Animal Welfare

- **Weather is critical factor**
 - Truck movement cools animals
 - Stopping reduces this effect
 - Can negatively affect animal health
 - Keep traffic moving as quickly as possible
 - Portable fans and misters can help to keep animals cool
 - Pigs and poultry are especially sensitive to overheating

➤ Waste Management

- All waste is considered contaminated
 - Feces, urine, bedding material
 - Personal Protective Equipment
- Remove waste immediately and dispose of properly
- Do not dispose where it will harm environment
- Provide sharps container for needles

Checkpoint Personnel

➤ Training:

- **All personnel working at a vehicle checkpoint should be familiar with:**
 - Incident Command System (ICS)
 - Quarantine terminology
 - State import regulations
 - State response plan
 - Basic biosecurity
 - Safety issues
 - Screening criteria

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

- Used for multi-jurisdictional collaboration to determine:
 - Authorities: Who will be in charge
 - Responsibilities: Individual state and collaborative tasks
 - Support: Checkpoint specifics and logistics
 - Communication: Disease dependent criteria
 - Financial accountability
 - Limitations and termination of agreement

Additional Resources

Graham JL, Hutton J, Cao S, Fagel M, Wright W. 2008. National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 525, Volume 13: A guide to traffic control or rural roads in an agricultural emergency.
http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=14184

Emergency Agriculture Movement Control Checkpoint Selection Guidance. Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture.
<http://www.nasda.org/File.aspx?id=4076>

Traffic Control – Agricultural Response Monograph No. 001. Nebraska Department of Agriculture
http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/homeland_security/monograph_001.pdf

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