Overcoming Language Barriers
During an Animal Health Emergency

Language Barrier Issues
- Diverse workforce
  - 47% foreign-born
  - 50% Hispanic
  - 31% less than 9th grade education
- Spanish most common non-English language in U.S. households

Overcoming Language Barriers
- Find someone that is bilingual
  - Farm supervisor or crew leader
  - Community member
  - Interpreting service
  - Other responding agencies

Visual Identification
- Visual identification
  - Colored vest
  - Colored tape on outerwear

Tips for Communicating
- Remain calm and professional
- Speak slowly and clearly
- Avoid using acronyms or jargon
- Use everyday language
- Repeat important information
- Be patient
- Communicate with respect

Just-In-Time Training for Animal Health Emergencies
Overcoming Language Barriers

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Tips for Communicating

- Give information in small parts
- Verify comprehension before continuing
- Frequently check for understanding
  - Look for signs of confusion, agreement, or disagreement, apprehension
  - Watch the eyes, facial expression, or body language

Additional Communication Tips

- Information by various methods
- Verbal
- Visual
  - Translated signage or handouts in various languages
  - Language boards
  - Picture sets or drawings
    - Premade or paper/pencil

Resources


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