

# 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](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](http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/homeland_security/monograph_001.pdf)

---

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-2013-HSEMD-002. June 2013. Revised July 2014.

