I. **Introduction: Why Plan for Animal Issues During a Disaster?**

From 1993-1998, there have been at least nine major disasters in the State of California, including three major floods, three fires, two winter storms, and one major earthquake.\(^1\) In disasters, the first priority is to the protection of life, property, and the environment.\(^2\) Unfortunately, in the past, this has not included a coordinated response for the evacuation, care, and sheltering of animals. Almost twenty million California households own pets.\(^3\) Although the protection of human life is the highest priority in emergency response, recent disasters and follow-up research have shown that proper preparation and effective coordination of animal issues enhances the ability of emergency personnel to protect both human and animal health and safety. It is much more efficient, effective, and inexpensive to develop plans to address animal issues prior to an incident than during one. The following issues highlight why animal preparedness is necessary:

A. **Refusal to Evacuate and Early Return to Unsafe Areas**

Since human evacuation shelters do not allow pets in facilities, pet owners requiring sheltering must choose between deserting their animals, refusing to evacuate, or evacuating their animals to a pre-determined site. Without advanced planning, this can be a difficult decision. Farmers and ranchers who depend upon animals for their livelihood are often unwilling to leave their animals unsupervised in the event of a disaster. Some key facts to consider are:

- Up to 25\% of pet owners will fail to evacuate because of their animals; this represents 5-10\% of the total population directed to evacuate.\(^4\)
- 30-50\% of pet owners will leave pets behind, even with advance notice of evacuation.\(^4\)
- Approximately 50-70\% of people leaving animals behind will attempt to reenter a secure site to rescue their animals; this represents 5-15\% of the total population directed to evacuate.\(^4\)

The 10-25\% of individuals who refuse to evacuate, or attempt to return to the evacuated areas because of their animals, risk injury, exposure to hazardous materials, and their own lives, as well as those of emergency response personnel who must rescue them. The most effective and efficient way to minimize human and animal health and safety risks is for individuals and responding agencies to be properly prepared to address animal issues well in advance of a disaster.

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\(^4\) Numbers quoted are from personal communication with Sebastian Health, DVM; Purdue University. These numbers reflect studies of three incidents: Oakland, CA firestorm (1991, 1273 pets), Weyauwega, WI train derailment (1996, 241 surveys), and Marysville, CA floods (1997, 397 surveys).
B. **Public Health and Safety Risks Caused by Animals at Large**
Animals that are not cared for by their owners during a disaster may become a public health and safety risk. Loose and displaced animals are possible carriers of disease (such as rabies and plague) and can become a nuisance or danger to people. Animals “at large” are the responsibility of local animal control officials.

C. **Public Health and Safety Risks Caused by Animal Carcasses**
Another public health and safety risk is the presence of animal carcasses. Decaying carcasses can contaminate water sources or lead to outbreaks of diseases such as cholera or anthrax. Better planning in the 1997 Yuba County floods could have prevented a situation in which 218 dairy cows drowned. This created substantial cleanup costs for the county and delayed residents’ return to their homes. Timely carcass removal is critical. The methods for environmentally acceptable disposal of animal carcasses are limited, and become particularly difficult and expensive when there are many large animal carcasses.

D. **Economic Considerations**
California has the largest agricultural economy of any state in the nation, valued at $26.8 billion in 1997. Some of the state’s largest agricultural products are of animal origin. Dairy products are the top agricultural commodity in the state valued, at $3.6 billion in 1997; cattle and calves are the fourth largest, valued at $1.3 billion in 1997. The California livestock and poultry industry together accounted for $6.3 billion in 1997. The loss of production animals due to a disaster can result in major economic loss to individual farmers and ranchers as well as local and state economies. For specific information about animal based agricultural production in your county, talk to your County Agricultural Commissioner, or see the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s (CDFA) California Agricultural Resource Directory. Copies can be ordered through the CDFA website at www.cdfa.ca.gov.

E. **Public Relations Considerations**
Society views animals as dependent upon human care and support. Many pets are considered integral parts of families. Animals and animal issues attract media attention. This is particularly true during a disaster. Media involvement in the rescue of “Rodeo,” a border collie stranded in the 1997 floods, brought intense media coverage to these issues. Public concern and support for animals during the disaster was so high that more money and supplies were donated to care for animals than for people. The failure to deal with animal issues in disasters not only results in utilizing more

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6 Agricultural economic information published on CDFA’s website at: www.cdfa.ca.gov
7 Personal communication with American Red Cross officials.
resources and placing additional human lives at risk, but can result in significant public outcry and negative media coverage.

F. Control of Self-Responders and Misuse of Donations
Experience has shown that when animals are impacted by disasters, a large number of self-responders will arrive to address the situation. These well-meaning, but untrained and emotionally driven individuals, can be very disruptive and create many law enforcement challenges. Additionally, these situations may encourage the arrival of "rescue groups." Some of these groups are well-trained and helpful, and some are not. In 1997, there were serious problems with misappropriation of collected donations and inappropriate disposition of animals linked to some of these groups. Effective control of self-responding individuals and rescue groups is critical. This can occur only when a well-coordinated official response is in place. A county animal plan allows for appropriate identification and utilization of all available resources within the structure of the county animal response plan. This will minimize the intrusion of untrained and unsolicited volunteers in a crisis situation.

II. How to Use this Guide
Preparation, planning, and practice are the keys to successful disaster response. California’s diverse landscape and population (human and animal) presents unique challenges to emergency management. No single plan is adequate statewide. This is particularly true of animal issues. This planning guide is intended to provide county agencies involved in disaster planning for animals with a comprehensive outline for addressing animal issues during disasters.

The CDFA developed this guide after reviewing animal disaster planning resources from other states, counties, and voluntary organizations. Efforts have been made to incorporate information into a format consistent with California’s Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). This guide outlines organizations and individuals who should be involved in the planning process, local factors that should be considered, and planning issues at each emergency management phase (preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation). After evaluating needs and resources, each county can decide which sections of this guide will be needed to develop an individual county plan appropriate to their area.

The appendix includes sample surveys and forms to be used for identifying and organizing county resources. These forms can be copied and used directly or tailored to fit your specific needs.

III. The County’s Role
A. Integrating an Animal Plan into Your Operational Area (OA) Emergency Response Plan

Animal issues, like all other disaster response activities, must be a part of your Operational Area (OA) Emergency Response Plan. For a county to be eligible for State disaster aid, they must use (SEMS) to respond; this is the same for animal issues. An organized plan will allow your county to effectively prevent and respond to animal issues during a disaster, organize local resources, facilitate mutual aid activities relating to animal issues, and utilize broader regional and state resources. Ultimately, the county animal response plan should be adopted as an annex to the OA Emergency Response Plan. A “single point of contact,” the County Animal Coordinator, will be part of the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Once developed, a county’s Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will outline preparation, response, and recovery activities for animal issues.

B. The Role of the Counties in the California Animal Response in Emergency System (CARES)

California Animal Response in Emergency System (CARES) organizes state resources, in support of local government responding to animal issues, during a state level emergency in accordance with SEMS. During a disaster, if local resources are insufficient to meet existing needs, local government may request state assistance. When this assistance is requested; the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) will activate CARES, with CDFA as the lead agency. The ability to respond effectively at the state level largely depends upon planning accomplished within each OA prior to a disaster. Since the majority of volunteers, resources, and organization during a disaster originate in the local area, it is essential that counties and local agencies have animal response plans in place in order for CARES to function effectively. The CARES Plan is intended to facilitate mutual aid between counties.

IV. Definition of “Animal”

For the purposes of responding to animal issues during disasters, the CARES Committee defines “animals” as, “affected commercial livestock, companion animals, exhibition animals, captive wildlife, and exotic pets.” This definition excludes non-captive wildlife. This is the definition that will be used for state level response activities. It is suggested that you use a similar definition in your county animal plan in order to eliminate confusion as to the types of animals rescue efforts will be directed towards.

V. Getting Started: Forming a Planning Committee

To develop a comprehensive and effective plan in your OA, it is important that as many stakeholders as possible be included in the process. Including a wide range

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of groups concerned about animal issues in the planning process will foster cooperation, understanding, and commitment to work within the plan in your OA. The following is a list of possible stakeholders; specific groups will vary by county:

A. **Government Agencies**
   - County Emergency Services
   - County Agricultural Commissioner
   - County Health Department
   - County and City Animal Control
   - County and City Law Enforcement
   - County and City Fire/Rescue
   - County and City Parks and Recreation
   - Solid Waste Management

B. **Voluntary Organizations**
   - California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)
   - Humane Societies
   - Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)
   - Animal Welfare Groups
   - School groups (4-H, FFA, Animal Science Clubs, etc.)
   - Wildlife Rehabilitation Groups
   - Local Food Banks
   - Other Disaster Response Agencies (Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc.)
   - Animal Clubs

C. **Industry Groups**
   - Cattlemen, Dairy, or Equestrian Associations
   - Farriers
   - Animal Transporters
   - Pet Food and Supply Businesses
   - Commercial Animal Industries (breeders, stables, kennels, beef, dairy, and poultry producers, etc.)
   - Horse Track Representatives
   - Home Owner Associations for Rural Communities
   - Utilities
   - Local Zoos or Animal Parks
   - Local Fair Organizations

VI. **Local Issues to Consider in Developing Your Plan**

A. **Types of Disasters Likely in Your Area**
   You should do an inventory of the possible hazards in the OA and the specific areas most likely to be affected by each of these hazards. This may
already have been done as a part of the OA Emergency Response Plan. Keep in mind the following possibilities:

- Earthquakes
- Floods
- Fires
- Landslides
- Volcanic Activity
- Railroad Accidents
- Oil/Chemical Spills
- Nuclear Accidents

### B. Animal Population in Your Area

Knowing the population of animals in your area will help in planning the scope and type of disaster response planning needed in your OA. There are several ways to estimate the animal population in your area.

#### 1. Household Pet Estimate

For a rough estimate, you can calculate the number of pets in your area by using the following tables and information:

**Table 1: Frequency of Pet Ownership in the United States**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Percent of U.S. Households Owning Pets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Pets</td>
<td>58.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs</td>
<td>31.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cats</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Pets</td>
<td>10.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Table 2: Average Number of Animals per Household**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Average Number of Pets per Pet-Owning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Household Animals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dogs</td>
<td>1.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cats</td>
<td>2.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>2.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The number of households in your county can be found by looking at the demographics information in the California Department of Finance web page, [www.dof.ca.gov](http://www.dof.ca.gov).

2. **Production Animal Estimate**
   The number of production animals, such as dairy and beef cattle, poultry, pigs, and sheep by county, can be found by contacting your County Agricultural Commissioner, or in the [California Agricultural Resource Directory](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov) published by CDFA.

3. **Survey Local Sources**
   The following is a list of possible sources that could be surveyed to make an estimate of the number of animals in your county.

   - Dog and cat licenses
   - Veterinary records
   - Major producers (livestock, poultry)
   - Industry groups
   - Pet and feed store sales records
   - Restricted species licenses from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)

C. **Location of Animal Populations in Your Area**
   It is important to identify where the majority of the animal population in your county is located. If your county is largely urban or suburban, this is probably the same area where most people live. If your county is largely rural, this is probably the location of large producers. Other sites such as kennels, racetracks, and zoos may also need special attention during a disaster. Because large animal transportation requires more equipment, effort, and time than small animal transport, special attention should be paid to these areas. Once you have located the highest concentrations of animals in your county, you should compare them to the areas most likely to be affected by specific disasters. If available, Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping techniques are particularly helpful in pinpointing potential trouble spots.
D. Location of Animal Resources in Your Area
It is important to pinpoint the location of resources needed for animal survival during a disaster. Resources include things such as: food, water, shelter and confinement areas, transportation, and volunteers. If any of the resources you identify are likely to be cut off during a disaster, consider an alternate resource base. Also, look at how disasters may affect access to these resources by volunteers and evacuees.

E. Liability Issues
When developing a county animal plan, there are various areas where liability issues may arise. You should consult with your county council and county OES office regarding exposure to risk and statutes that cover emergency activities, animal issues, and lost or abandoned property.

1. Releases
You may consider the use of release statements on some of the recommended documents in the Appendices of this Guide. A sample release developed by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is included in Appendix A.

2. Volunteer Workers
All volunteers involved in your county animal disaster response should be Registered Disaster Service Workers. For additional information on volunteer workers, see Section VII, Part B.6 of this guide.

VII. Preparation

A. Identifying a County Animal Coordinator
The County Animal Coordinator is the individual who will act as the single point of contact on animal issues in the OA. This person will staff the EOC for the OA during a disaster. This individual should be trained in SEMS and the Response Information Management System (RIMS) and should be knowledgeable in local animal issues and in the local animal response plan. This person may be a local animal control official, County Agricultural Commissioner, or other county designee. In order to select the best individual for this position, consider:

♣ What are the responsibilities of this position?
♣ Will the local emergency service agency have current and reliable contact information for this person?
♣ Who is the alternate County Animal Coordinator?
♣ What training do these individuals need?

B. Identification of Resources
The preparation stage of disaster response allows local groups to plan response activities before a disaster occurs. The most important part of this is identifying local resources available. Following are lists of resources that should be identified prior to a disaster:

1. **Animal Confinement and Shelter Facilities**

   a. **Small Animal**
      - Kennels/boarding facilities
      - Animal Control facilities
      - Wildlife rehabilitation centers
      - SPCA/Humane organizations
      - Local fairgrounds
      - Veterinary clinics

   b. **Large Animal**
      - Local fairgrounds
      - Stables or racetracks
      - Local FFA or 4-H groups
      - Saleyards or auctions
      - Railroad holding areas
      - Rodeo arenas
      - Local educational institutions
      - Producers/ranchers/private individuals

2. **Animal Food Sources**

   a. **Small Animal**
      - Pet stores
      - Food banks
      - Grocery stores
      - Kennels
      - Breeders

   b. **Large Animal**
      - Feed stores
      - Hay brokers
      - Local boarding and breeding facilities
      - Ranchers/private individuals

3. **Animal Water Sources**

   The availability of safe and accessible water will largely depend upon the location of the sheltering facilities in your area. When identifying shelters you should check on the water sources at the facility. If you are concerned about water quality or contaminated
water at a particular site, check with the County Department of Health. In an emergency, water may need to be treated with chlorine or other chemicals before use.

4. Supplies
The following is a suggested list of supplies to locate and/or obtain for animal care and sheltering.

a. Non-Medical Animal Care Supplies

i. Small Animals
   - Pet carriers
   - Cat litter
   - Collars
   - Leashes
   - Cages
   - Shovels
   - Food and water dishes
   - Chlorine bleach
   - Disinfectant

ii. Large Animals
   - Halters
   - Lead ropes
   - Blankets
   - Bedding
   - Wheelbarrows
   - Rakes
   - Pitchforks
   - Buckets
   - Hoses
   - Fly spray
   - Chlorine bleach
   - Disinfectant
   - Lime

iii. Office Supplies (for record keeping, animal identification, etc.)
   - Necessary forms
   - Trail marking tape (can be used to make collar)
   - Duct tape
   - Microchip scanner
   - Camera/film
   - Pens/pencils
b. **Veterinary Supplies**
   - Medications
   - Vaccines
   - IV fluids
   - Leg wraps
   - Bandages
   - Ambulatory clinics

5. **Transportation**
The following are possible sources of animal transportation resources. Most of the local groups listed should be included in the planning committee.

a. **Small Animal**
   - Animal control vehicles
   - Mobile veterinary clinics
   - Mobile dog kennels
   - Local kennel clubs/cat fanciers
   - Local humane organizations
   - Private vans, trucks, and trailers

b. **Large Animal**
   - Local horsemen’s associations/riding clubs
   - Private horse trailers
   - Horse transport companies
   - Local cattlemen’s association
   - Rancher livestock transport
   - Dairy livestock transport
   - Feedlot transport
   - Animal control vehicles and horse trailers
   - University, state, and community college animal transport

6. **Volunteer Resources**
Volunteers are the people who make a response plan work. When animals are in danger, you will find many willing volunteers. It is important that volunteers understand the response system, are trained, and are registered disaster service workers. To become a registered Disaster Service Worker, volunteers must register with the local Emergency Services Disaster Council prior to a disaster. Being a registered disaster service worker will allow volunteers to receive workers’ compensation should they be injured while volunteering. It will also ensure that volunteers are trained in SEMS and are aware of relief operations. The following is a list of groups that could supply volunteers and help gather other needed resources. Most of these groups should be included in the planning committee:

- Local animal control
- County Agricultural Commissioner
- CVMA
- Local humane societies
- Local SPCA
- College or school groups (4-H, FFA, etc.)
- Local Cat Fanciers Associations
- Local kennel clubs

7. **Confirmation of Resource Availability**
   In addition to the identification of local resources, it is important that the availability of resources be periodically confirmed with the owners or suppliers of these resources. In some cases, it may be necessary for the OA to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with resource providers to ensure resource availability in the event of a disaster. It is important that plans be made for gathering needed resources during a disaster. Multiple routes to shelters and areas where resources are kept should be planned.

C. **Organization of Response Activities**
   Response activities should be organized into clearly defined roles. The following is an outline of some of the roles needed for response, as identified by OES in the State Plan. Local needs may vary. This is only a suggested organizational framework. Some of these functions may already be a part of the local emergency response plan and can be used to support animal response efforts.

1. **Management**
Management is responsible for overall emergency policy and coordination through the joint efforts of governmental agencies and private organizations. Management duties include:

a. **Liaison**  
The liaison communicates with staff from other agencies in the EOC. This should be the job of the County Animal Coordinator.

b. **Public Information Officer**  
The Public Information Officer develops and releases information about emergency operations to the news media, personnel involved in the response operations, and other appropriate agencies and organizations.

2. **Planning and Intelligence**  
Planning and Intelligence is responsible for collecting, evaluating, and disseminating information during response and recovery activities. Much of this may be done through the statewide RIMS (through OES). Planning and Intelligence duties include:

a. **Situation and Status Analysis**  
Situation and Status Analysis may be assigned to provide information on situation status of animal rescue, care, and sheltering operations.

b. **Documentation**  
Documentation compiles records and data pertaining to the response effort.

c. **Mobilization/Demobilization**  
Mobilization/Demobilization works with Operations and Logistics to help plan the mobilization of personnel, equipment/supplies, and facilities. It also prepares the demobilization plan and monitors its execution.

3. **Operations**  
Operations coordinates all jurisdictional operations in support of the emergency through the implementation of the OA action plan. The animal issues may be assigned to deal with:

a. **Care and Sheltering**  
Care and Sheltering assists in the coordination of animal care and sheltering with human care and sheltering operations.
b. **Disease Control**

Disease control activities may include:

- Disposal of dead animals
- Separation of sick and healthy animals
- Rabies control
- Capture or euthanasia of animals “at large”

c. **Animal Identification System**

A system must be developed for identifying animals brought to shelters so that they can be returned to their proper owners. Records must also be kept for dead and unclaimed animals. Those operating the animal identification system may work with Operations to assist in reuniting animals with their owners.

4. **Logistics**

Logistics is responsible for providing facilities, services, personnel, equipment, and materials. The following is a list of logistical activities needed for responding to animal issues:

a. **Communications**

Communications staff maintain communications with all sites and personnel responding to animal issues during a disaster. Helps facilitate cooperation between responders.

b. **Transportation**

Transportation coordinates the movement of transportation resources to where they are needed.

c. **Facilities Coordination**

Facilities Coordination develops plans for mobilization centers, staging areas, shelters, and regional evacuation points. It oversees the distribution and installation of supplies to these areas.

d. **Resource Tracking**

Resource Tracking is responsible for tracking the status of resources at the various response sites.

5. **Finance**

Finance is responsible for tracking financial activities. The following is a list of activities that need to be tracked for costs incurred by the OA in case of future reimbursement.
a. Employee Time Reporting  
b. Procurement of Supplies  
c. Workers’ Compensation and Claims  
d. Cost Accounting for Response Activities  
e. Damage Survey Report (DSR) Record Keeping

D. Practice Your Response Plan  
Once you have planned your response, it is important that it be practiced periodically. Practicing the response plan will help pinpoint possible problem areas and allow personnel to become comfortable with their roles. Both table top and actual drills are useful.

E. Volunteer Training  
Dealing with animals, particularly in stressful or chaotic situations such as disasters, requires special skill. Volunteers who handle animals need to have experience or training in this area. Several national, state, and local groups offer training programs.

VIII. Response  
Response is putting all this planning to work. To ensure a smooth response, some things to consider are:  
♣ Develop SOPs that specifically outline the response duties of personnel and organizations.  
♣ Use the template forms (in the appendix of this guide) to make a binder of forms needed at each shelter facility and EOC.  
♣ Develop a notification system to be activated in the event of a disaster.  
♣ Flexibility is key to an effective response; be prepared to activate alternate plans if needed.  
♣ Update your resource lists, plan, and SOPs often.

IX. Recovery  
During the recovery stage of a disaster, the following activities must be coordinated:

A. Shelter Closures and Redistribution of Supplies  
It is important that guidelines be developed to decide when closure is appropriate and how it will be done. This is often coordinated with the closure of human shelters. Animal shelters can usually be closed 48 hours following the closure of human shelters. Owners who need to make special arrangements can do so on a case-by-case basis. Guidelines on distribution of remaining supplies should be agreed upon by all responding groups. Also, a plan for the release of volunteers should be developed.
B. **Removal and Disposal of Animal Carcasses**
Guidelines should be developed for disposal of animal carcasses in a safe and timely manner. Some disposal methods have negative environmental impacts. You should check with the County Department of Environmental Health for specific restrictions. It may be helpful to develop a MOU with a local rendering company or crematoria to ensure their services following a disaster.

C. **Unclaimed Animal Adoption or Euthanasia Procedures**
Procedures for the adoption or euthanasia of unclaimed animals following a disaster should be developed and agreed upon. These should be consistent with local laws and the current procedures of sheltering groups involved.

D. **Collection of Data**
In the recovery stage, data should be collected on the response activities. This data should include financial information about the response effort as well as damage assessment information.

X. **Mitigation**
Mitigation activities should include an assessment of the response activities and possibly a revision of the response plans and procedures. The goal of mitigation should be to improve future response. Mitigation and preparedness activities should continue until the next disaster response.

XI. **Other Planning Resources**
The following is a list of disaster planning and information resources available from other government agencies and non-profit organizations.

A. **Government Agencies**

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
  Provides general information about FEMA and emergency management activities
- [www.fema.gov/fema/anemer.htm](http://www.fema.gov/fema/anemer.htm)
  Provides information specifically on preparedness and planning for animals in emergencies and links to other related sites.

- [www.fema.gov/EMI/is10.htm](http://www.fema.gov/EMI/is10.htm) and [www.fema.gov/EMI/is11.htm](http://www.fema.gov/EMI/is11.htm)
  Provides information and course materials for the independent study *Animals in Disasters Training Courses*. There are two modules of this course; 1.) Awareness and Preparedness; and, 2.) Community Planning. Course materials can be downloaded and a final exam may be completed online.
National Weather Service (NWS)

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National Weather Service (NWS)

Website: www.nws.noaa.gov

Provides weather information and warnings for the United States.

State of California-- Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES)

Website: www.oes.ca.gov

Provides information about OES activities, state disaster planning, and types of emergencies. Includes links to mapping resources, related agencies, and weather reports. The California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) can also be accessed through this site. CSTI provides training in SEMS and other emergency response activities.

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

Website: www.cdfa.ca.gov

Provides information about CDFA programs, the Animal Health and Food Safety Services, disaster preparedness materials for animal owners, and includes a directory of the County Agricultural Commissioners. This guide and appendices can also be downloaded from this site.

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)

Website: www.dfg.ca.gov

Provides information on CDFG programs. Includes information about oil spill response activities.

University of California, Davis (UC Davis)

Website: www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vetext/home.html

Provides information on the Veterinary Medicine Cooperative Extension program through UCD. All or part of the DANR Guide to Disaster Preparedness Resources can be downloaded from this site.

Website: www.ucdavis.edu

Provides access to all UCD websites and resources.

Florida Animal Disaster Planning Advisory Committee (ADPAC)

Website: www.unr.net/~lbevan/adpac

Provides information on Florida’s animal disaster response program, and disaster planning and preparedness guidelines. Includes links to other sites and order forms for disaster planning information. Most of the sources used to develop this guide can be ordered from this site.

Florida State Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry

Website: http://doacs.state.fl.us/~ai/ai.html
Provides information on ESF-17, Florida’s animal disaster response plan.
Includes information on disaster preparedness for animals.

Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH)
♣ www.state.in.us/boah/index.html
Provides information on the Indiana State Annex for Veterinary Emergencies (SAVE) and disaster preparedness guidelines for various types of animals.

B. Non-profit Organizations

American Humane Association
♣ www.americanhumane.org
Provides information on disaster relief and preparedness.

American Red Cross
♣ www.redcross.org
Provides general information about disaster relief efforts worldwide.
♣ www.redcross.org/disaster/safety/pets.html
Provides information on disaster preparedness for pets.
♣ www.redcross.org/disaster/safety/index.html
Provides general information on disaster safety, including a list of California Preparedness Materials. These include a barnyard animal rescue plan, information for owners of service animals, and first aid for animals.

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
♣ www.avma.org
Provides information about veterinary activities throughout the United States. Includes links to state Veterinary Medical Associations.
♣ www.avma.org/avmf/Drmain.htm
Provides information about the American Veterinary Medical Foundation’s (AVMF) disaster relief activities. Includes an order form for the AVMA Disaster Planning Guide.

California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)
♣ www.cvma.org
Provides information on the CVMA disaster response programs. Includes a directory of CVMA member veterinarians.

Cat Fanciers Association
♣ www.cfainc.org/disasters.html
Provides information on the disaster relief efforts of the Cat Fanciers Association and disaster preparedness.

Disaster Relief
♣ www.disasterrelief.org
   Provides information on disasters worldwide. Includes disaster preparedness information for pets.

Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)
♣ www.hsus.org
   Includes a section on animal disaster relief.

The Horse Review
♣ www.horsereview.com
   Provides links to disaster preparedness sites and information for horse and pet owners.

International Fund for Animals
♣ www.ifaw.org
   Includes information on their Emergency Relief Team.

United Animal Nations
♣ www.uan.org
   Provides information on the Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS).

XII. Sources


Heath, Sebastian E. Electronic mail to Office of Emergency Services staff. 9 Oct. 1997.


Nevada County Unit CVMA Disaster Response Program, Help Us Get Them to Safety! 1997.


State of Indiana, Board of Animal Health, State Annex for Veterinary Emergencies Committee (SAVE).

University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Veterinary Medicine Extension. DANR Guide to Disaster Preparedness


XIII. Acronyms

AH&FSS Animal Health and Food Safety Services
FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency
CSTI California Specialized Training Institute
GIS Geographical Information System
OA Operational Area
OES Office of Emergency Services
RIMS Response Information Management System
SEMS Standardized Emergency Management System
SOP Standard Operating Procedures
Appendix A: Animal Confinement and Shelter Facility Forms

Animal Care and Holding/Boarding Survey\(^9\)

1. Facility Name ________________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________________

\(^9\) Adapted from the Indiana State Annex for Veterinary Emergencies Committee.
Facility Phone (   ) ______-___________ Fax (   ) ______-___________

2. Owner’s Name ________________________________________________________________
   Owners’ Home Phone (   ) ______-_________ Cell Phone (   ) ______-_________
   Owner’s Pager (   ) ______-_________

3. What animal species will you accept?
   Dog  Cat  Equine  Livestock  Avian  Other ___________________________

4. Do you have a microchip scanner available?  No  Yes  Type: __________________________

5. How many cages, runs or stalls do you have available? Are any seasonal?
   _____ Cages   _____ Runs   _____ Large Animal Stalls   _____ Corrals

6. Would you be willing to provide services during a disaster?
   Pro bono  Reduced Rate __________________________ Standard rate __________________

7. What are the minimum entry requirements for animals to your facility?
   None  Rabies  Other vaccinations _____________________________________________
   Parasite control  Other __________________________________________________________________

   Would you waive them during a disaster?  Yes  No

8. Does your facility have isolation facilities?  Yes  No

9. Is your staff available outside normal hours of operation?  Yes  No

10. Do you have a consulting veterinarian or vet clinic you work with?  Yes  No

   Name ____________________________________________ Phone (   ) ______-___________

11. Give brief directions to your facility from the closest major road or highway.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Small Animal Intake Form - Owned Animals with Owner

Date arrived ________________________  Animal ID # __________________________

Date discharged _____________________ Assigned Location ___________________

Owner Information

10 Adapted from Help Us Get Them to Safety! By the Nevada County Unit of the CVMA and Indiana’s State Annex for Veterinary Emergency Committee.
Name ______________________________________________   Phone # (        ) _____-______________
Address ______________________________________________________________________________
Emergency Contact _____________________________________________________________________

Animal Identification
Species ______________________________ Other ID ______________________________
Breed _______________________________ Size: Toy Small Medium Large Giant
Coat Color ___________________________ Coat Length: Short Medium Long
Age ________________________________ Sex: M M(neutered) F F(spayed)

Medical
Rabies Vaccine? Yes No Tag # ___________ County issued _____________________________
Other Vaccines:
  Canine: Distemper Hepatitis Leptospirosis Parainfluenza Parvovirus Coronavirus
  Feline: Rhinotracheitis Calcivirus Panleukopenia Chlamydia Felv FIP
Any medical problems? No Yes ______________________________________________________
Taking medications? No Yes ________________________________ Owner provided? No Yes
Instructions _______________________________________________________________________
Special diet? No Yes ________________________________ Owner provided? No Yes
Instructions _______________________________________________________________________

Habits and Traits (circle all that apply)
  fence jumper digger scratcher submissive housebroken highly excitable biter
  shy leash broken barker/vocal declawed obedience trained other _______________________
Aggressive toward men women children other animals _______________________________

Accepted by (staff) ________________________________ Date __________________
Owner Signature ________________________________ Date __________________

Released by ________________________________ Date __________________
Owner Signature ________________________________ Date __________________

Small Animal Intake Form - Rescued/Found/Stray

Date rescued/found _________________ Location found ____________________________
Date arrived ________________________ Assigned Location ________________________
Date discharged _____________________ Animal ID # _____________________________

11 Adapted from Help Us Get Them to Safety! By the Nevada County Unit of the CVMA and Indiana’s State Annex for Veterinary Emergencies Committee.
Accepted by (staff) _______________________________________________________

Rescuer Information
Name __________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________________________________
Phone # (        ) _____-_____________

Animal Identification
Species ____________________________ Rabies Tag? No Yes #_________________
Breed _____________________________ Size: Toy Small Medium Large Giant
Coat Color ________________________ Coat Length: Short Medium Long
Other ID ___________________________ Sex: Male M (neutered) Female F (spayed)

Reclaimed
Owner ________________________________________________________________________
Phone (       ) _____-___________________
Address _______________________________________________________________________
Proof of Ownership _____________________________________________________________
Released by __________________________ Date ______________
Owner Signature __________________________ Date ______________

Adopted
Adoptive owner ________________________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________________________
Phone (       ) _____-___________________
Released by __________________________ Date ______________
New owner signature __________________________ Date ______________

Transferred to ________________________________________________________________

Large Animal Intake Form12

Date Arrived _________________ Rescued Owner Brought
Intake number _________________ Assigned Shelter Location _______________________
If rescued, Date rescued _________________ Location ____________________________

12 Adapted from Indiana’s State Annex for Veterinary Emergencies Committee.
Date Discharged ______________

Species: Cattle Sheep Swine Horse Goats Other ________________________________

Owner’s/Rescuer’s name ________________________________

Address _______________________________________________________________________

Number and street City Zip

Phone ( ) ________________________ Cellular ( ) ________________________

Fax ( ) ________________________ Pager ( ) ________________________

Individual Animal Identification

Identification Description, registration Age Sex Breed

(E.g., Brand/tattoo) name or number

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 
7. 
8. 
9. 
10. 

Accepted by (staff) _______________________________________ Date ____________

Owner’s signature ________________________________________ Date ____________

Released by _____________________________________________ Date ____________

Owner’s signature ________________________________________ Date ____________

RELEASE

The undersigned owner(s) (agent) of the animal(s) described as follows:

Name of Animal______________________ Breed_______________________
hereby request the emergency quartering of these animals being evacuated because of a pending or occurring disaster. The animal owners (agents) hereby release the receiving property owners and any caregivers from any and all liability regarding the care and quartering of these animals during and following this emergency. The animal owners (agents) acknowledge that if emergency conditions pose a threat to the safety of these animals, additional relocation may be necessary and that this release is intended to extend to such relocation.

The animal owners (agents) acknowledge that the risk of injury or death to these animals during an emergency can not be eliminated and agree to be responsible for any veterinary expenses which may be incurred in the treatment of their animals. It is also requested that the animal owners (agents) contribute to the feeding and daily care of their animals, if possible.

The cost (if any) of returning these animals after the emergency will be at the owners= (agents=) expense. If an animal is not claimed within thirty (30) days, unless prior arrangements have been made, the animal owner will be notified of possible adoption or relocation.

Printed Name of Animal Owner (Agent) ________________________________

Signed Name of Animal Owner (Agent) ____________________________________________

Home Phone_______________________

Place of Employment_______________________ Work Phone____________________

Address to which Owner (Agent) plans to evacuate during the emergency

Phone_______________________

It is the responsibility of the animal owner (agent) to keep the receiving property owners aware of where the animal owner (agent) can be contacted following the emergency.

Address of Receiving Property ________________________________

______________________________
Appendix B: Animal Food Resources

County Animal Food Resource Checklist

Small Animals
  Food Banks
  Pet Stores
Grocery Stores
Kennels
Breeders
Feed Stores
Humane Societies/SPCAs
Animal Control Shelters
Veterinary Clinics

Large Animals and Horses
Feed Suppliers
Feed Stores
Hay Producers/Transporters
Local Animal Producers
Local Boarding Facilities
Local Breeding Facilities
Local Horsemen’s/Cattlemen’s Organizations

County Animal Food Survey

1. Company/Organization Name ____________________________________________
   Address

   ________________________________________________________________

13 Adapted from Indiana’s State Annex for Veterinary Emergencies Committee.
Facility Phone ( ) ______-________ Fax ( ) ______-________
Representative’s Name ____________________________________________
Representative’s Pager ( ) ______-________ Cell phone ( ) ______-________

2. **What species do you have food for?**
   - Dog (Type of food) ____________________________________________
   - Cat _________________________________________________________
   - Bird _________________________________________________________
   - Reptiles _____________________________________________________
   - Cattle ______________________________________________________
   - Horse _______________________________________________________
   - Sheep/Goat __________________________________________________
   - Other _______________________________________________________

3. **Would you be willing to provide animal food during a disaster?**
   - Free
   - Reduced Rate ___________________
   - Standard Rate _____________

4. **Give brief directions to your location from the closest major road or highway.**
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________

**County Animal Food Resource List**

Organization/Company Name ________________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________________

---

14 Adapted from the CVMA *Disaster Response Resource Guide.*
Area or cross streets ______________________________________________________
Contact’s name __________________________________________________________
Phone Number (      ) _____________________       Fax (      )______________
Rep’s Cell Phone (      ) ___________________     Pager (      )______________

**Supplies Available**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplies Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Type of Food _________________________ Species __________________________
Delivers? Yes No
Free Reduced rate ________________ Standard Rate ______________

**Organization/Company Name**

Organization/Company Name ______________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________
Number and Street City Zip

Area or cross streets ______________________________________________________
Contact’s name ________________________________________________________
Phone Number (      ) _____________________       Fax (      )______________
Rep’s Cell Phone (      ) ___________________     Pager (      )______________

**Supplies Available**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplies Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Type of Food _________________________ Species __________________________
Delivers? Yes No
Free Reduced rate ________________ Standard Rate ______________
Appendix C: Supplies

County Animal Supplies Survey$^{15}$

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$^{15}$Adapted from the Indiana State Annex for Veterinary Emergencies Committee.
1. **Company/Organization Name** ____________________________________________

   Address ______________________________________________________________
   Number and Street City Zip
   Facility Phone (   ) _____-_________       Fax (   ) _____-_________

   **Representative’s Name** _______________________________________________
   Representative’s Pager (   ) _____-_________ Cell phone (   ) _____-_________

2. **What supplies do you have?**

   **Veterinary Supplies**
   Drugs   Vaccines   IV fluids   Leg wraps   Bandages

   **Non-medical Animal Supplies**

   **Small Animal**
   Pet carriers   Cat litter   Collars   Leashes   Cages   Shovels   Bleach
   Disinfectant   Food and water dishes

   **Large Animal**
   Halters   Lead ropes   Blankets   Bedding   Wheelbarrows   Rakes
   Pitchforks   Buckets   Hoses   Fly spray   Bleach   Disinfectant   Lime

   **Office Supplies**
   Trail marking tape   Duct tape   Microchip scanner   Camera/film   Paper
   Pens/pencils   Permanent markers   Binders   Staplers   Hole punch
   Computer/printer   Copy machine   Flashlights   Cellular phones

3. **Would you be willing to provide these supplies during a disaster?**
   Free   Loan   Reduced Rate _____________   Standard Rate ___________

4. **Give brief directions to your location from the closest major road or highway.**

   _______________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________

**County Animal Supply Resource List**

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16 Adapted from the CVMA *Disaster Response Resource Guide.*
Organization/Company Name _____________________________________________

Address

______________________________________________________________________

Number and Street City Zip

Area or cross streets _______________________________________________________

Contact’s name __________________________________________________________

Phone Number (       ) _____________________       Fax (       )

________________________________

Rep’s Cell Phone (       ) ___________________     Pager (       ) ____________________

Supplies Available

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Free    Loan    Reduced rate _______________    Standard Rate __________

Organization/Company Name _____________________________________________

Address

______________________________________________________________________

Number and Street City Zip

Area or cross streets _______________________________________________________

Contact’s name __________________________________________________________

Phone Number (       ) _____________________       Fax (       )

________________________________

Rep’s Cell Phone (       ) ___________________     Pager (       ) ____________________

Supplies Available

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Free    Loan    Reduced rate _______________    Standard Rate __________
Appendix D: Transportation Resources

County Animal Transportation Checklist

17 Adapted from the CVMA Disaster Response Resource Guide.
Small Animal

Animal Control vehicles
Mobile veterinary clinics
Mobile dog kennels (talk to hunting clubs, kennel clubs)
Local Cat Fanciers
Local humane organizations
Private vans, trucks, and trailers

Horses

Local horsemen’s association/riding clubs
Private horse trailers
Horse transport companies

Large Animal

Local Cattlemen’s association
Livestock Transport Companies
Ranchers
Dairies
Feedlots
Animal Control vehicles and horse trailers
University and other local educational institution livestock transport
Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

County Animal Transportation Survey

1. Company/Organization Name ________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________________
Phone (        ) _____-_________      Fax (        ) _____-_________

2. Representative’s Name ________________________________________________
   Representative’s Phone (        ) _____-_________   Pager (        ) _____-_________

3. What species can you transport and how many?
   Dog _______      Cattle _______      Exotics _______
   Cat _______      Sheep _______      Poultry _______
   Horse _______      Swine _______      Goat _______

4. Would you be willing to provide transportation services during a disaster?
   Pro Bono   Reduced rate _____________________   Standard rate ____________

5. General information
   Insurance Company ________________________ Policy # _____________________
   Vehicle License Plate Number _______________ Description ___________________
   Trailer License Plate Number ________________ Description ___________________
   
   If more than one vehicle:
   Vehicle License Plate Number ________________ Description ___________________
   Trailer License Plate Number ________________ Description ___________________
   Vehicle License Plate Number ________________ Description ___________________
   Trailer License Plate Number ________________ Description ___________________
   Vehicle License Plate Number ________________ Description ___________________
   Trailer License Plate Number ________________ Description ___________________

County Transportation Resource List\(^{18}\)

Company/Group Name __________________________________________________________

\(^{18}\) Adapted from the CMVA Disaster Response Resource Guide.
Address ________________________________________________________________
Number and Street City Zip
Area or cross streets _______________________________________________________
Owner’s name ___________________________________________________________
Phone Number (       ) _____________________       Fax (       )
___________________________________
Owner’s Cell Phone (       ) _________________     Pager (       )
___________________________________

Description of Transportation Resource ___________________________________
Species ____________________________ Number of animals ____________________
Driver(s) ________________________________________________________________
Free   Reduced rate _________________   Standard Rate ________________

Company/Group Name _______________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________
Number and Street City Zip
Area or cross streets _______________________________________________________
Owner’s name ___________________________________________________________
Phone Number (       ) _____________________       Fax (       )
___________________________________
Owner’s Cell Phone (       ) _________________     Pager (       )
___________________________________

Description of Transportation Resource ___________________________________
Species ____________________________ Number of animals ____________________
Driver(s) ________________________________________________________________
Free   Reduced rate _________________   Standard Rate ________________
Appendix E: Volunteer Resources

Survey of Groups with Registered Disaster Service Workers
Organization _____________________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________
          Phone (   ) _____-_________       Fax (   ) _____-_________
Contact Name ____________________________________________________________
Contact’s Phone (   ) _____-_________    Pager (   ) _____-_________

Number of Volunteers
   1. Trained as a disaster service worker
          _____ Veterinarian/Animal Health Technician
          _____ Non-medical
   2. Not trained as a disaster service worker
          _____ Veterinarian/Animal Health Technician
          _____ Non-medical
   3. Experienced with:
          _____ Small Animal
          _____ Large Animal (livestock)
          _____ Horses
          _____ Exotics

Volunteers
Name ___________________________ Phone (   ) _____-_________
          Veterinarian/AHT  Non-medical  Trained as a disaster service worker
Experience: Small animal  Large Animal  Horse  Exotic
Name ___________________________ Phone (   ) _____-_________
          Veterinarian/AHT  Non-medical  Trained as a disaster service worker
Experience: Small animal  Large Animal  Horse  Exotic

Name ___________________________ Phone (   ) _____-_________
          Veterinarian/AHT  Non-medical  Trained as a disaster service worker
Experience: Small animal  Large Animal  Horse  Exotic
Organization (cont.)

Name ___________________________________________ Phone (  ) _____-
Veterinarian/AHT  Non-medical  Trained as a disaster service worker
Experience: Small animal   Large Animal   Horse   Exotic

Name ___________________________________________ Phone (  ) _____-
Veterinarian/AHT  Non-medical  Trained as a disaster service worker
Experience: Small animal   Large Animal   Horse   Exotic

Name ___________________________________________ Phone (  ) _____-
Veterinarian/AHT  Non-medical  Trained as a disaster service worker
Experience: Small animal   Large Animal   Horse   Exotic

Name ___________________________________________ Phone (  ) _____-
Veterinarian/AHT  Non-medical  Trained as a disaster service worker
Experience: Small animal   Large Animal   Horse   Exotic

Name ___________________________________________ Phone (  ) _____-
Veterinarian/AHT  Non-medical  Trained as a disaster service worker
Experience: Small animal   Large Animal   Horse   Exotic

Name ___________________________________________ Phone (  ) _____-
Veterinarian/AHT  Non-medical  Trained as a disaster service worker
Experience: Small animal   Large Animal   Horse   Exotic
Veterinarian/AHT  Non-medical  Trained as a disaster service worker

**Experience:** Small animal  Large Animal  Horse  Exotic

Name ___________________________________________ Phone ( ) ______ -

Veterinarian/AHT  Non-medical  Trained as a disaster service worker

**Experience:** Small animal  Large Animal  Horse  Exotic

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**County Veterinary Emergency Response Personnel Application**

Name ___________________________________________ Phone ( ) ______ -

**Home Address**

Number and Street  City  Zip

Home Phone ( ) ____________________ Fax ( )

Pager ( ) ___________________________ Cell ( )

**Work Address**

Number and Street  City  Zip

Work Phone ( ) ____________________ Fax ( )

May we call you at work?  Yes  No
Are you licensed and accredited in California?  Yes  No
What is your primary area of expertise?

- Companion animals (dogs  cats  pocket pets  house exotics)
- Large animals (cattle  swine  horses  cervidae  camelids  ratites)
- Poultry (chickens  turkeys  ducks  geese)
- Farm Exotics (ratites  camelids)
- Other: ___________________________________________

Do you have a mobile clinic or equipment?  Yes  No
Are you prepared to use it during a disaster response?  Yes  No

Medical Insurance Carrier ___________________ Policy Number ___________________

Driver’s License Number ___________________ Expiration Date _____/_____/_____

Vehicle License Plate Number ___________________ Description ___________________

Trailer License Plate Number ___________________ Description ___________________

---

19 Adapted from the Indiana *State Annex for Veterinary Emergencies* Committee.
Do you have Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) training?  Yes  No

Disaster Training or Experience______________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Signature ___________________________________________ Date ______________________

Approved by __________________________________________ Date ______________________

County Animal Care Volunteer
Emergency Response Personnel Application20

Name_________________________________________ Last       First       MI

Home Address_______________________________________________________________
Number and Street  City  Zip

Area or cross streets _________________________________________________________

Home Phone (        ) ____________________         Fax (        ) ____________________

Pager (        ) ____________________     Cellular (        ) ____________________

Employer_______________________________________________________________

Work Address______________________________________________________________
Number and Street  City  Zip

Work Phone (        ) ____________________         Fax (        ) ____________________

May we call you at work?  Yes  No

Medical Insurance Carrier ___________________ Policy Number ___________________

Physician ______________________________ Phone (        ) _____________________

Any Medical Conditions?  No  Yes: __________________________________________

Driver’s License Number ___________________ Expiration Date _____/_____/_______

Vehicle License Plate Number _______________ Description ______________________

Trailer License Plate Number ________________ Description ______________________

_________________________________________  Date ______________________

Approved by __________________________________________ Date ______________________

20 Adapted from the Indiana State Annex for Veterinary Emergencies Committee and Help Us Get Them to Safety! by the Nevada County Unit of the CVMA
Do you have Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) training?  Yes
                                          No

Additional Disaster Training or Experience (i.e., DART)

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Signature ___________________________ Date ____________

Approved By ___________________________ Date ____________