

**EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #11
Agriculture and Natural Resources**

ANNEX COORDINATOR:

Thurston County Emergency Management

JOINT PRIMARY AGENCIES:

Thurston County Cooperative Extension
Thurston County Public Health

SUPPORT AGENCIES:

Thurston County Emergency Management
Thurston County Disaster Animal Rescue Team
American Red Cross
Washington State Military Department
Emergency Management Division (EMD)
National Guard
Washington State Department of Agriculture
Washington State Department of Health (DOH)
Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Ecology
Washington State Department of Transportation
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

This Emergency Support Function (ESF) identifies and organizes the resources available to Thurston County to address animal care which includes coordinating animal evacuation, sheltering and health care.

Specifically ESF #11 addresses:

1. Nutritional services—determining nutrition assistance needs, obtaining food supplies and arranging delivery;
2. Food supply safety and security—inspection and verification of food safety;
3. Animal and plant disease and pest response—response to outbreak of a highly contagious and economically devastating disease or infestation; and
4. Natural resource protection and restoration—protection of natural and cultural resources and historic properties.

B. Scope

Many of the agencies involved in ESF #11 activities have existing emergency plans and procedures. This ESF is not designed to take the place of these plans, rather it is designed to complement and support existing plans and procedures.

II. POLICIES

- A. Each individual, family, worker, visitor, business, organization and institution within Thurston County is responsible for emergency planning for a minimum of seven (7) days of self-sufficiency of both food and water, along with general emergency preparedness.
- B. Each primary and support agency or organization in this ESF is responsible to develop realistic and manageable policies specific to their respective emergency operations.
- C. The primary agency for each incident coordinates with other ESF's and annexes to ensure appropriate use of volunteers and their health and safety and to ensure appropriate measures are in place to protect the health and safety of all workers.
- D. All activities involved with this ESF will follow the Incident Command System (ICS).
- E. Incident Command will assist with animal issues; the priority will be the health and safety of the citizens of Thurston County. It is imperative that the owners of the animals retain responsibility and accountability of their livestock and pets.
- F. Every reasonable effort will be made to respond to emergencies or disasters but resources and systems may be overwhelmed. Some events provide little or no warning to implement operational procedures and all emergency plans are dependent upon ability to implement, which may be imperfect. This plan can only be fulfilled if the situation, information exchange, extent of actual capabilities and resources are available at the time of the incident.

III. SITUATION

- A. Emergency Disaster Conditions and Hazards
 - 1. Refer to the Thurston County Hazard and Vulnerability Analysis
- B. Planning Assumptions
 - 1. Agricultural production is geographically disbursed in unsecured environments (e.g., open fields and pastures throughout the countryside). While some livestock are housed in secure facilities, agriculture in general requires large expanses of land that are difficult to secure from intruders.

2. Livestock are frequently concentrated in confined locations (e.g., feedlots with thousands of cattle in open-air pens, farms with tens of thousands of pigs, or barns with hundreds of thousands of poultry). Concentration in slaughter, processing and distribution also makes large scale contamination more likely.
3. Live animals, grain and processed food products are routinely transported and comingled in the production and processing system. These factors circumvent natural barriers that could slow pathogenic dissemination.
4. The presence (or rumor) of certain pests or diseases in a country can quickly stop all exports of a commodity, and take months or years to resume.
5. The past success of U.S agencies keeping many diseases out of the U.S. means that many local veterinarians and scientists lack direct experience with these foreign diseases. This may delay recognition of symptoms in case of an outbreak.
6. The number of lethal and contagious biological agents is greater for plants and animals than for humans. Most of these diseases are environmentally resilient, endemic in foreign countries and not harmful to humans—making it easier for terrorists to acquire, handle and deploy the pathogens.
7. Thurston County Public Health will provide guidance to the County, agencies and individuals to ensure the safety of food, water, and donated goods to the public.
8. The distribution of food, water and donated goods needs to be a community-wide effort to include Thurston County and City governments.
9. Distribution of food, water and donated goods will tax government, humanitarian and social service agencies. Community Points of Distribution (CPODs) may be established for area distribution.
10. If not handled properly, food, water and other goods can become vehicles for illness and disease transmission, which must be avoided. Safety is paramount in food handling and distribution.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. Incident Command will organize and coordinate the capabilities and resources of County government, private organizations and the private sector to facilitate the delivery of services, technical assistance, expertise and other support for emergency operations.

2. Thurston County Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) will serve as the central location for interagency coordination and executive decision-making, including all activities associated with this ESF.
3. The ECC Team will work to ensure necessary agriculture and natural resources tasks can be accomplished. The support and partnering agencies will provide resources and personnel to assist in accomplishing these activities as required by the event.
4. Thurston County Emergency Management will assess the need for resources from outside the county to support operations and request assistance as needed. Depending on the event, state and federal agencies may become critical members of the ECC Team.
5. Thurston County Health Department and the County Extension Agent will provide information on preventative measures to be taken to reduce contamination of foodstuffs, water, crops, and livestock, as well as information and recommendations for the safe storage and distribution of emergency foodstuffs.

B. Organization

1. The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) has statutory authority to identify and monitor plant problems. Washington State University (WSU) Extension has in place an extensive network of expertise and resources to assist the WSDA in developing an appropriate local response.
2. WSDA, Animal Services, is the primary agency coordinating local response to an outbreak of a countywide significance of infectious disease in domesticated livestock.
3. Environmental Health is the primary agency for coordinating local response to adulterated or suspected adulterated food supplies until such time that the ECC requests state and federal resources through the Washington Emergency Management Division (EMD).
4. Environmental Health is the primary agency for coordinating local response to zoonotic disease until such time that the ECC requests state and federal resources through EMD.
5. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Ecology are the primary agencies for coordinating efforts relating to non-domesticated animal disease or infestation of countywide significance.
6. County departments and municipalities act as the primary agencies for protecting, recovering and restoring natural, cultural and historic resources at the local level before, during and after an emergency or disaster of countywide significance.

7. County departments and municipalities act as the primary agencies for providing assistance, if possible and if resources allow, to lost or injured pets before, during and after an emergency or disaster of countywide significance. Incident Command may request animal welfare organizations or local veterinarians to provide technical assistance and volunteer support to primary agencies in this effort.

C. Procedures

1. Each organization under this ESF will follow its internal standard operating procedures when responding to an incident. When appropriate, agencies will assign a representative to the ECC.
2. When the Incident Commander (IC) determines that local resources are exhausted, the ECC will coordinate the request for additional resources through the State EMD.
3. All county agencies will endeavor to provide accurate and timely emergency public information to Thurston County's Public Information Officer (PIO), or Joint Information Center (JIC), whichever is established.

D. Mitigation Activities

1. Develop standard operating guides and checklists to support activities.
2. Develop mutual aid agreements with government agencies, professional associations and private agencies and organizations with personnel and equipment to support these activities.
3. Conduct and participate in training in the Incident Command System (ICS) and ECC operations.
7. Develop and/or review procedures for crisis augmentation of personnel.
8. Participate in and/or conduct drills and exercises.

E. Preparedness, Prevention, and Protection Activities

1. Provide surveillance for a foreign animal disease or an animal borne poison or toxin that may pose a threat to the animal industries, the economy or public health.
2. Provide for surveillance of plant pests of unknown or questionable origin that may pose a potential threat to agriculture, horticulture, the economy or public health.
3. Preparedness measures should include personal, family and facility preparedness to ensure employees can respond to emergencies. This includes:
 - a. Having a plan in place for response to emergencies.

- b. Participation in training and exercises.
- c. Understanding and participating in the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- d. Developing public awareness programs to support vulnerable population preparedness efforts.

F. Response Activities

- 1. Support the disaster response and recovery with all available resources.
- 2. Provide assistance to established pet shelters.
- 3. Restrict movement, detain or move animals, equipment, products and personnel as necessary to control and eradicate animal or plant disease.
- 4. Manage and direct evacuation of animals from risk areas and provide technical assistance to prevent animal injury and the spread of disease.
- 5. Provide and/or receive appropriate mutual aid.
- 6. Secure supplies, equipment, personnel and technical assistance from support agencies, organizations and other resources to carry out the response plans associated with animal health or any act of agro-terrorism.

G. Recovery Activities

- 1. Continue to support disaster operations as needed.
- 2. Restore equipment and restock supplies to normal state of readiness.
- 3. Participate in after action reports and meetings.
- 4. Make changes to plans and procedures based on lessons learned.
- 5. As permitted by the situation, return operations to normal.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. All Agencies

- 1. Develop applicable standard operating procedures, guidelines and/or checklists detailing the accomplishment of their assigned functions.

2. When requested, deploy a representative to the ECC to assist with response activities.
3. Provide ongoing status reports as requested.
4. Maintain updated resource inventories of supplies, equipment and personnel resources, including possible sources of augmentation or replacement.
5. Document all costs and expenses associated with response and recovery activities taking care to clearly separate disaster related work from daily work in the event that state and federal reimbursement becomes available.
6. Maintain up-to-date rosters for notifying personnel and 24-hour ECC staffing capabilities, and provide this information to DEM.
7. Provide personnel and resources to support animal and plant emergencies.
8. Perform other emergency responsibilities as assigned.

B. Primary Agencies (Local)

1. Thurston County Public Health

- a. Provides technical assistance for microbial threats with the ability to affect human health.
- b. Serve as the lead agency in the human health response for zoonotic diseases.
- c. Coordinate with the ECC/PIO for the dissemination of information regarding preventative measures for contamination of food and purification of water.
- d. Monitors emergency food and water supplies for compliance with health regulations.
- e. Develop procedures to notify the residents of Thurston County how to treat contaminated food and water.

2. Thurston County WSU Extension Office

- a. Provide personnel and resources to support animal and plant emergencies.
- b. Provide subject matter expertise, education and informational resources related to agriculture.
- c. Ensure continued contact with agricultural associations.

3. Joint Animal Services

- a. Collaborate with ESF-6 to develop a household pet plan for sheltering pets and managing lost or deceased animals.
- b. Provide assistance to pet owners in the form of food, shelter, and veterinary services as resources allow.
- c. Collaborate with local veterinarians and other pet services in Thurston County to provide services to pet owners during disasters.

C. Support Agencies

1. Emergency Management

- a. Provide personnel and resources to support animal and plant emergencies.
- b. Coordinate the activities of those local agencies charged in local plans for the provision and management of food, water and donated goods.
- c. Maintain an operational ECC and its emergency operating procedures.
- d. Coordinate with State Emergency Management in the development of local programs that will manage the logistics of food, water and donated goods.
- e. Coordinate with all appropriate departments/agencies to ensure operational readiness.

4. Local Veterinarians

- a. Provide medical care for injured and diseased animals in a capacity with which the animal care professional is qualified.
- b. Assist in providing shelters for companion animals or provide boarding care for displaced animals in a capacity with which the boarding care provider is qualified.

Note: Animal care professionals enter into service contracts with animal owners for the care of animals and are usually based on a fee for service. In disasters, animal care professionals may provide pro bono service, but it should never be assumed that this will be the case.

5. Thurston County Disaster Animal Rescue Team

- a. Provide personnel and resources to support animal emergencies.
- b. Provide a liaison to the ECC.

- c. Support animal sheltering operations as needed.

6. Public Works Departments

- a. Provide personnel and resources to support animal and plant emergencies.
- b. Assist the ECC with required transportation for the collection and distribution of bulk food and water.
- c. Assist with setting barricades for traffic detours of quarantined areas.

7. American Red Cross

- a. Provide a liaison to the County ECC.
- b. Provide for temporary shelter for citizens with pets that include feeding, welfare inquiries and information services.

D. State Support Agencies

1. State Emergency Management

- a. Request the assistance of state agencies and private organizations having emergency mass care capabilities when requested by local governments.
- b. Alert those state and local agencies that have the expertise needed for managing food (Department of Agriculture), water (Department of Health) and donated goods (Government Surplus Administration).
- c. Provide overall logistical support of nationally donated goods by managing the State Logistics Center for 72 hours after activation.

2. Department of Health

- a. Supplement local health agencies in the regulation and inspection of consumable foods at the point of preparation.
- b. If available, coordinate and inspect appropriate response with all Group A water purveyors (15 or more homes or serves 25 people per day for more than 60 days).

3. Other State Agencies

- a. Responsibilities as identified in the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan*.

E. Federal Support Agencies

1. Department of Agriculture

- a. Assist in the inspection of donated foods and other goods.
- b. The National Response Framework (NRF) describes the trained and certified Federal teams/agencies available to assist Thurston County during a disaster.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Food and water will initially be procured with supplies on hand within Thurston County.
- B. Direct purchasing and contract development with private sector food businesses and volunteer organizations will be utilized until bulk distribution of food and water supplies can be coordinated with state and federal agencies.
- C. All Thurston County departments will utilize their own resources as much as possible. Additional resources for the emergency will be procured through department actions or through the ECC.
- D. Local, state and federal government facilities, volunteer and private agencies within Thurston County will need to be used for food and water storage, preparation and distribution.
- E. The Thurston County ECC will relay all requests for state and federal support through the Washington State Emergency Coordination Center.

VII. REFERENCES and SUPPORT PLANS

- A. *American Red Cross Mount Rainier Chapter Disaster Plan*
- B. *The National Response and Recovery Framework*
- C. *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan*
- E. *Thurston County Public Health Plans*
- F. *Thurston County Disaster Animal Rescue Team Standard Operating Procedures*

VIII. ATTACHMENTS

None