

# Santa Barbara County Multi-Hazard Functional Plan



# Annex O

## Animal Disaster Response Plan

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Annex O describes the basic concepts, policies and procedures for providing a coordinated animal control response to any disaster. Its purpose is to provide a unifying document for the emergency plans of the County of Santa Barbara and its contract cities, the City of Santa Barbara and nonprofit animal care agencies.

Reference also should be made to Annex H, Movement for details on traffic controls that may be put in place.

## **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

Protect the health and safety of citizens within the Santa Barbara Operational Area.

- Provide rapid care for and control of animals during disasters.
- Minimize animal suffering, loss of life and subsequent disability by ensuring timely and coordinated assistance.
- Provide care and control of animals brought to shelters.
- Provide for participation in mutual aid between and among neighboring counties.

## **3.0 CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

Animal control operations will usually be associated with the periods and phases discussed in the Basic Plan, Section 5.0.

### **3.1 General**

If a decision is made to evacuate, the public will be warned by designated mobile units, local radio and TV and other predetermined means. Law enforcement and traffic control personnel will be dispatched to designated traffic and access control points. Transportation providers will be contacted to dispatch vehicles to designated evacuation assembly points. It will be necessary to determine the area to be evacuated and the number and type of animals involved, based on information obtained from annual surveys and licensing information, as well as information available on scene at the time of the incident.

Evacuations involving only a small number of people and animals can generally be handled without elaborate measures by on-scene public safety personnel. Evacuations involving a larger number of people and animals will require the determination and establishment of traffic and access control points, evacuation routes and evacuation

assembly points. Mass care facilities will be selected from available facilities considering the number of people evacuated, safety of evacuation routes and distance from the hazard area.

If the area to be evacuated is large, it may be necessary to divide it into sub-areas in order to expedite and prioritize movement. People and animals closest to the hazard would generally be warned and evacuated first. The evacuation area would be expanded until all of the threatened population is evacuated.

The size of the organization to be activated and the location from which operations will be directed must be based on the size and complexity of the effort. Organizations locally available to support operations are denoted in section 9.0.

## **3.2 Organization and Responsibilities**

### **3.2.1 Cities**

Maintain liaison with County Animal Services during a disaster to provide status of animal control activities within their jurisdiction.

Information to be provided includes:

- The nature of the emergency.
- The location.
- The type of animals involved and their anticipated number.

### **3.2.2 County of Santa Barbara/Santa Barbara Operational Area**

The Animal Services section of the DOC is normally activated when the EOC is opened. It is staffed by a representative from Animal Services, Public Hand will report to the Operations Section Chief.

The Director of Animal Services or representative will maintain active liaison with fire, law enforcement, the City of Santa Barbara Animal Control, nonprofit animal assistance organizations and private shelter representatives. The Director or representative will coordinate the Animal Services response for the Santa Barbara Operational Area and will make decisions about resource allocation and priorities.

Upon a request for assistance, the closest appropriate Animal Services unit should be dispatched to the scene as an agency representative and report to the Liaison Officer, if that position has been filled, to provide direct communications between the scene and

Animal Services. If there is no Liaison Officer, agency representatives report to the Incident Commander.

Private animal shelters, veterinary hospitals and boarding facilities in the area should be notified.

Notification should be made to all other agencies as needed and listed under section 9.0.

### **3.2.3 Santa Barbara Humane Society**

The Santa Barbara Humane Society sponsors a volunteer Large Animal Evacuation and Assistance team. All members of this team are registered by the Office of Emergency Services as Disaster Service Workers. The equine team has a fully equipped communications van and all responding team members are equipped with CB radios and other basic equine rescue equipment.

Missions for unincorporated areas within the County of Santa Barbara or jurisdictions provided service by the Animal Services Department may be authorized by designated representatives of Animal Services, designated representatives from County Fire or the Sheriff's Department.

Requests for out of county mutual aid should be authorized by designated representatives of the Animal Services, Public Health Department.

All requests for equine team assistance are through the Animal Services Director or designee to the Humane Society, who will determine the extent of team call out.

Following contact by Animal Services, the director of the Humane Society, or designated representative, will contact their staff and volunteers.

On scene, the Santa Barbara Humane Society representative will report to and operate under the direction of the Animal Services Director or designee.

In addition, the Humane Society maintains a day-to-day working relationship with the Animal Services, Public Health and will support animal control efforts in general.

### **3.2.4 State**

#### **Department of Fish and Game**

Game wardens and veterinarians provide assistance with wildlife, including cleanup activities associated with oil spills.

### **Public Utilities Commission**

Provides listings of commercial and private transportation vehicles that could be used for evacuation.

### **3.2.5 Federal**

#### **Department of Transportation and Department of Interior**

Supports and assists federal, state, local and voluntary relief agencies in disaster relief transportation requirements.

### **3.2.6 Equine Evac**

Equine Evac is a volunteer group organized in Santa Barbara County to assist with evacuation of horses. This group is activated by the Animal Services Director in the event that horses need to be evacuated in a disaster. The group has radios and generators and multiple truck and trailer rigs available.

## **4.0 COMMUNICATIONS**

There is no mutual aid frequency for animal control agencies. Each agency uses different radios and frequencies.

Where possible, Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) operators will assist in providing communications.

Animal Services has their own radio communications system, as well as Nextel cell phones. The Animal Services Director may also be issued a radio that has the Sheriff's Department frequency to facilitate communication with the Operations Chief.

## **5.0 CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR ANIMAL CARE FACILITIES**

Facilities which are expected to require special plans and resources to cope with emergency situations include veterinary hospitals, boarding facilities and large breeders. All facilities of this type within the area to be evacuated will be warned of the emergency situation. Site specific area plans will identify the names, addresses and phone numbers and contact persons for all of these facilities.



Some of these animal care facilities may have their own evacuation plans, which include provisions for procuring necessary transportation resources. The on scene liaison from Animal Services should be advised of request for assistance from facilities without transportation resources.

Animal Services has intake forms for small animals and horses in the event that animals are evacuated away from their owners. A form is filled out for each animal impounded, as well as input onto the master log form.

## **6.0 CONTROLLING TRAFFIC**

Traffic controls will be established at key intersections and at access points to major evacuation routes as needed to expedite the flow of traffic. In some cases it may be necessary to control traffic on routes outside the hazard area to minimize conflicts with evacuation traffic.

## **7.0 CONTROLLING ACCESS TO HAZARD AREA**

As an area is being evacuated, access controls must be established. Controlling re-entry both protects the public from exposure and injuries and protects unattended property within the vacated area. Security of the vacated area will be obtained by establishing manned access control posts and barricades at key locations around the perimeter. Any unmanned barricades will be patrolled periodically. Special entry passes will be issued at the manned control posts in accordance with established policies. Policies and procedures for access control are provided in Annex C.

Animal Services may produce Vehicle Placards for designated vehicles assisting with the evacuation. These are numbered and incident specific. Coordination of the authorized staff, volunteers and vehicles is done by the Animal Services Director under the direction of the Operations Chief.

## **8.0 MEDICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS**

Animals requiring medical care will be treated following Animal Services established protocols at local designated veterinary hospitals. If a large number of animals require treatment, a triage center will be established and veterinarians requested to respond to the scene.

Animals may also be transported to the Santa Maria Animal Center Clinic for hospitalization and treatment, if necessary.

## **9.0 SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Law Enforcement:**

Coordinates with other law enforcement agencies for maintenance of control of area perimeter and evacuation routes. Assists in warning alerts.

### **Fire Department:**

Assists in evacuation warnings and evacuations when appropriate.

### **Private Animal Care Shelters**

Provide care and assist where possible in recovery and rescue of animals.

### **Veterinary Medical Association**

Coordinates with the Animal Services Director for provision of emergency shelters for animals through veterinary hospitals, as available, and coordinates private veterinary medical service.

### **Santa Barbara Zoological Society**

Provides expertise and resources to handle and care for exotic animals.

### **Santa Maria Fairplex**

Temporary shelter for animals on a space available basis.

### **Earl Warren Showgrounds**

On a space available basis, provides shelter for large animals.

### **Santa Maria Elks Rodeo Grounds**

On a space available basis, provides shelter for large animals.

### **California Department of Fish and Game**

Provides assistance with wildlife, including cleanup activities associated with oil spills.

### **Wildlife Care Network**

The Wildlife Care Network (WCN) is a private volunteer organization that provides rescue and treatment of distressed or oiled birds and animals. The WCN team is fully equipped to respond to the scene of a distressed bird or animal and all responding WCN members have been trained in the care and handling of distressed wildlife. WCN has a relationship with local veterinarians, City and County Animal Control and the State Department of Fish and Game. WCN has a number of wildlife treatment and rehabilitation sites throughout the south coast.

WCN may be reached through the State Department of Fish and Game, Animal Control or directly by their local phone number (805) 966-9005.

On scene, the WCN agency representative will report to and operate under the direction of the Animal Services Director or designee.

### **Santa Barbara Marine Mammal Center**

The Santa Barbara Marine Mammal Center (SBMMC) is a private volunteer organization that provides rescue and treatment of distressed marine mammals. The SBMMC team is fully equipped to respond to the scene of a distressed marine mammal and all responding SBMMC members have been trained in the care and handling of distressed marine mammals. SBMMC has a relationship with local veterinarians, the Santa Barbara City Harbor Patrol, County Animal Control Officers and the State Department of Fish and Game. SBMMC has a treatment and rehabilitation site within Santa Barbara County and SBMMC responders can retrieve marine mammals either on or offshore.

SBMMC may be reached through the State Department of Fish and Game, Santa Barbara City Harbor Patrol, Animal Control or directly by their local phone number (805) 687-3255.

**On scene, the SBMMC agency representative will report to and operate under the direction of the Animal Services Director or designee**

## **10.0 HAZARD-SPECIFIC RESPONSES**

The animal control checklist items are to be accomplished as appropriate in response to emergencies.

There is no significance in the order of the checklist since many actions may have to be accomplished concurrently.

### **10.1 General Animal Control Response to All Disasters**

#### **EMERGENCY ACTION CHECKLIST**

<b><i>Action</i></b>	<b><i>Assigned Responsibility</i></b>
Include in initial size up of event need for animal control and if appropriate request County Public Safety Dispatch to call out an Animal Services unit.	Fire/Law first responders
Identify animal care facilities or geographical areas that may be threatened and estimate the number of animals needing assistance in the threatened area.	Fire/Law first responders
Check in with Incident Commander/Liaison Officer upon arrival at field command post.	Animal Control Officer
Contact Staging Area Manager and determine staging area location for evacuation vehicles for transporting animals, i.e., horse trailers, etc.	Animal Control Officer
Put Animal Services personnel on standby status.	Animal Services Director/designee
Alert Santa Barbara Humane Society or other supporting organizations as appropriate.	Animal Services Director/designee
Dispatch Equine Evacuation and Assistance team to staging area and Agency Representative to command post.	Animal Services Director/designee

Prioritize large animal evacuations as necessary and coordinate activities with Equine Evacuation team agency representative at field command post.	Animal Control Officer
Estimate number of horses needing transportation assistance.	Animal Control Officer
Brief Director, Animal Services or designee on incident status.	Animal Control Officer
Establish location, condition and capacity of animal shelters and if required take action to expand shelter capacity.	Shelter Supervisor
Establish procedures for each animal shelter to periodically report on its status.	Animal Services Director/designee
Establish procedures for each shelter to assist in returning animals to their owners at the conclusion of the incident.	Animal Services Director/designee
Coordinate with the Public Information Officer to include animal control emergency public information in Emergency Broadcast System messages.	Animal Services Director/designee
Coordinate with Law Branch Director to identify major evacuation routes, survey their status and identify alternate routes where necessary.	Animal Services Director/designee
Establish procedures to impound loose animals.	Animal Services Director/designee
Monitor status of warning and evacuation processes	Animal Services Director/designee
Coordinate with the Red Cross when they have been requested to open mass care shelters to provide handling and care of animals which have been brought to the shelters. Co-locate animal shelters with human shelters when feasible.	Animal Services Director/designee
Determine number and location of animals that require treatment or hospitalization.	Shelter Supervisor
Have units dispatched to pick up injured animals.	Shelter Supervisor

Provide for animal remains.	Shelter Supervisor
Periodically check with Red Cross liaison to determine animal control needs at American Red Cross shelters.	Shelter Supervisor
Provide for shift relief as necessary.	Animal Services Director/designee
Upon request, assist the California Department of Fish and Game.	Animal Services Director/designee
Inform the Public Information Officer of current information.	Animal Services Director/designee
Record and evaluate information regarding requests, activities, expenditures, damages and animal losses.	Animal Services Director/designee