

ESF 11 – Agricultural and Natural Resources

Purpose

This Emergency Support Function (ESF) Annex identifies and organizes the resources available to Sumner County to address animal care in the event of either a natural or manmade disaster or in the case of a Foreign Animal Disease outbreak. As such, it includes coordinating animal evacuation, sheltering, and health care.

This ESF also identifies the responsibilities of organizations that are charged with oversight of food and water supplies in the case of a disaster or emergency situation affecting human beings.

Sumner County has significant number of animals ranging from an abundance of household pets, a variety of captive wildlife animals to large numbers of commercial livestock operations. The vulnerability of these animals in the event of a disaster or emergency is not only a personal issue, but a commercial issue with the potential for long-range effects on our county's economy. A Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreak could result in unprecedented economic consequences locally and for the Nation. As such, specific response procedures are required to control the spread of FAD. The FAD Incident Specific Annex within this plan addresses the authorities, procedures, and roles and responsibilities related to a FAD.

Specifically, ESF-11 addresses:

- Resources available for sheltering domestic animals
- Identification of expedient care for lost and missing animals
- Nutritional services (determining nutrition assistance needs, obtaining food supplies and arranging delivery)
- Food supply safety and security (inspection and verification of food safety)
- Natural resource protection and restoration (protection of natural and cultural resources and historic properties)

Scope

ESF-11 is a functional annex to the Sumner County Emergency Operations Plan (SuCoEOP) and to the extent possible, information contained in other sections of the EOP will not be repeated in this ESF Annex.

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

Policies

This ESF Annex applies to all agencies with assigned emergency responsibilities as described in the SuCoEOP.

Concept of Operations

General

The Sumner County Emergency Operations Center (SuCoEOC) will serve as the central location for interagency coordination and executive decision-making, including all activities associated with ESF-11.

The ESF-11 primary agencies will work with the EOC Team 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 ESF-11 activities as required by the event.

The ESF-11 Coordinator will assess the need for resources from outside Sumner County to support operations and request assistance as needed. Depending on the event, State and Federal agencies may become critical members of the EOC Team.

Organization

Sumner County has limited local capability for providing expedient health services to injured response animals, pets and livestock that includes local veterinary hospitals & clinics.

Animal control services, both county & city, have a very limited capability to transport injured animals to veterinary relief facilities. Assistance with animal transportation may be available from surrounding counties through established mutual aid agreements. Local & State Veterinary Medical Associations may also be able to provide listings of available transportation resources. In addition, local veterinarians can coordinate with the American Red Cross to pick-up any animals arriving at Red Cross shelters and transport them to kennels or other temporary holding facilities. *Reference ESF-1 Transportation (Concept of Operations - Pet Evacuees).*

Specialized facilities (i.e., animal shelters, veterinary hospitals and clinics, boarding facilities, etc.) are responsible for making their own arrangements for emergency energy sources to provide proper environmental conditions, food & water to highly vulnerable animal populations.

Families are encouraged to prepare all of their family members for disaster situations. Local veterinarians can assist in educating pet owners of the need to prepare by distributing brochures and fliers on disaster preparedness for pets. Pet owners can assist locating lost or missing pets by providing a description of the lost animal or a picture.

Livestock owners are responsible for preparing for adverse weather conditions. When livestock feeding is beyond the owner's capabilities, the county must commit all local resources prior to requesting assistance from the State.

To the extent possible, the Sumner County Emergency Management Department will coordinate efforts to meet any additional or unforeseen circumstances. Critical supplies will be available either locally or regionally. Should additional critical supplies be needed, local & state Veterinary Medical Associations can provide listings of resources available and assistance with their procurement and delivery.

The Sumner County Emergency Management Department has assigned the coordination of documentation of injuries and deaths of animals for insurance, Small Business Administration (SBA), & statistical purposes to a local Animal Disaster Representative (ADR). The ADR will be a member of the local veterinarian's group who will report to the EOC.

A significant animal population in the county is comprised of pets. Pet ownership corresponds, for the most part, with general population density. An approximate number of companion animals in Sumner County can be estimated by utilizing a system developed by the Humane Society of the United States: by multiplying the number households (11,148 per 2006 Census figures) by a table provided in the Humane Society's manual, the number of companion animals in Sumner County are roughly:

Birds	=	1,373	Dogs	=	6,185
Cats	=	6,717	Horses	=	566

In general, physical methods of euthanasia will be in accordance with established county & city Animal Control office guidelines. Where large numbers of livestock or pets are involved, these procedures may have to be modified, but will adhere, to the extent possible, to guidelines for humane euthanasia of animals.

Local law enforcement will assist local veterinarians if the decision is made to employ euthanasia for critically injured animals. Law enforcement officials may have to make these decisions in the early part of the disaster before animal medical care specialists are available. The primary job of Law Enforcement is the protection of emergency responders and disaster victims. As such, decisions may have to be made that would require putting down animals that may create a danger to responders or victims.

Stray Pets and Livestock

Unclaimed animals or situations where the owners are unavailable require special consideration. To the extent possible, local Animal Control officers will retain this responsibility within their own jurisdiction. Should the problem exceed local capability, assistance may be available from surrounding counties through established mutual support agreements. If additional resources are required, local and state chapters of the Veterinary Medical Association and the Humane Society may also be able to assist with locating and obtaining these services.

Sheltering of Animals

The county has identified facilities located in the county who can board pets and livestock. These locations are divided into two types:

Temporary Shelters

Potential pre-designated locations for temporary shelters for animals have been identified as suitable for serving for no more than a period of ten days. A map of these locations is shown here. Availability of these temporary sites will be dependent on the extent of the disaster, the cooperation of local officials, and the determination of need. In the event temporary shelters are established, the Kansas Humane Society in Wichita can provide additional cages. Animals that have not been claimed within 10 days after being received at a temporary shelter will be considered abandoned. Per State regulations, these animals may be adopted out or euthanized.

Neither Sumner County nor the Kansas Humane Society can or will assume the responsibility for long term sheltering of animals affected by disasters. In the event these local temporary shelter locations become unsuitable due to the circumstances of the disaster, the Kansas Humane Society may accept pets on a temporary basis.

Long Term Shelters

Pet owners who no longer have a home to take their pets to or whose temporary living quarters will not accept animals (such as Red Cross authorized shelters), should be prepared to make arrangements to board their animals with local veterinarians, or friends and family members.

For large scale events, local veterinarians will rely on regional and state chapters of the Veterinary Medical Association, the Kansas Humane Society and the Sumner County Extension Office as well as other farm-related agencies or organizations to assist with issues regarding livestock.

Volunteers and Identification

Sumner County will rely upon volunteers to assist in the care and identification of animals separated from their owners. Such volunteer assistance may include 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and individuals who may act as "foster" families. Sumner County has a signed agreement with the United Way of the Plains to coordinate the efforts associated with identifying existing and potential volunteers. Volunteer assistance may also be available through the Kansas Humane Society and the Kansas Animals in Disaster Team. The Humane Society has examples of documentation that may be utilized to assist in the identification and tracking of animals.

Information concerning the location of temporary shelters for animals will be disbursed through the affected jurisdiction's Public Information Office to the media. Bulletins will be posted on all canteen trucks affiliated with the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army and at all human shelters. Included will be information on a listing of found animals and the date the animal will be moved to a long-term shelter.

Food and Water Supply Emergencies

Although volunteer agencies providing mass care services normally have the ability to provide food and water to both individuals affected by the event and those in emergency shelters, a major disruption to supplies of water or food may create a need to provide both acquisition and logistical support to the volunteer agencies.

Public and private schools, hospitals and other institutions may have facilities available to conduct mass feedings if necessary. The federal government may also provide assistance in the bulk distribution of disaster food supplies and/or food stamps during major emergency events.

The Sumner County EOC will work closely with local volunteer agencies to determine the emergency food and water needs of the affected population (i.e., the number of people in need of food and water and their locations).

The SuCoEOC will work to ensure adequate logistical support is provided to the volunteer agencies to obtain and distribute food and water supplies to the affected population.

The volunteer agencies will consider both stationary and mobile feeding operations based on the needs of the situation. If required by the event, the EOC will coordinate with the volunteer agencies to determine suitable food preparation facilities to use for mass feeding. In most events, Sumner County will rely on the capabilities of the many volunteer agencies with emergency feeding capabilities (e.g., Salvation Army Canteens and others).

If the situation warrants, the Lead and Support agencies in the Sumner County EOC will work closely with state and federal agencies to ensure the coordination of bulk food distribution and the issuance of disaster food stamps.

In addition, the ESF-11 Coordinator will:

- Work with the EOC Team to arrange for transportation for food supplies
- Ensure procedures are in place to inspect the food supply and ensure food safety
- Provide surveillance for food-borne disease
- Coordinate disposal of contaminated food products

Inspections

- Consumption

- The Sumner County Health Department in coordination with the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) will inspect food supplies, intended for both human & animal consumption that might have been contaminated. KDHE can also inspect for food borne pathogens with prior approval. Inspections of the water supply will be conducted by officials within the respected cities involved or other appropriate public water districts.

- Embargo

- The Sumner County Health Department in coordination with KDHE, will issue directions for food embargo and/or destruction.

- Advisories

- Food related advisories will be issued by the Sumner County Health Department and water advisories by officials within the respected cities involved or other appropriate public water districts.

The Sumner County Extension Office, which serves as the county's technical advisor on agricultural matters and animal health issues related to livestock, will issue advisories for the protection of feed, livestock, and wells.

Natural Resource Protection and Restoration

Depending on the event, there may be cultural or historic preservation and restoration issues to address, as well as natural resources issues such as potential contamination of the water and/or soil, as well as plants and animal life.

If the emergency causes damage to historical sites, Sumner County will work with the state and federal government to help ensure appropriate measures are taken to preserve and protect them.

Structures registered in the national or state historical registries, or those structures eligible for inclusion in those registries, are subject to special considerations. The Sumner County Clerk maintains a list of those structures in the county eligible for inclusion on the national and state registries. Cities are responsible for maintaining similar lists.

If the event is severe enough, there may be a need to dispose of contaminated carcasses and other materials using expedient burial operations, the land used for such burials must meet environmental requirements and should be as close as possible to the exposed area. If needed, land purchases will be made to secure adequate disposal sites.

The ESF-11 Natural Resources Coordinator will:

- Coordinate natural resources and cultural and historic properties damage assessments
- Facilitate and implement appropriate protective measures
- Assist in ensuring compliance with relevant Federal environmental laws, such as emergency permits for natural resources use or consumption
- Assist with response and recovery actions to minimize damage to natural resources
- Coordinate with ESF-3 Public Works and ESF-10 Hazardous Materials Response on the removal of debris affecting any natural and/or cultural and historic resources
- Coordinate with ESF-3 to manage, monitor, or provide technical assistance on emergency stabilization of shorelines, hillsides, etc. to protect natural resources and cultural and historic properties

Notifications

The Sumner County Emergency Management Director, or designee, will notify the primary and support agencies requiring the implementation of ESF-11 and request that a representative report to the EOC.

See Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Incident Specific Annex regarding FAD notifications.

Actions

Preparedness

- Develop standard operating guides and checklists to support ESF-11 activities
- Identify pet boarding facilities and private organizations that may provide emergency shelters for animals
- Identify sources to augment emergency food and water supplies
- Identify local agribusiness operators with equipment and personnel to assist with animal stop movement and quarantine activities
- Develop mutual aid agreements with government agencies, professional associations and private agencies and organizations with personnel and equipment to support ESF-11 activities
- Conduct and participate in training to support the implementation of ESF-11
- Develop and/or review procedures for crisis augmentation of personnel
- Participate in and/or conduct drills and exercises

Response

- Support the disaster response and recovery with all available resources.
- Provide assistance to established pet shelters
- Restrict movement, detain or move animals, equipment, products and personnel as necessary to control and eradicate animal or plant disease
- Manage and direct evacuation of animals from risk areas and provide technical assistance to prevent animal injury and the spread of disease
- Provide and/or receive appropriate mutual aid
- 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

Recovery

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

Prevention

- 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
- 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

Direction and Control

The ESF-11 Coordinator for a human health response for zoonotic diseases is the Sumner County Health Department. *See Biological Incident Specific Annex to this plan*

The ESF-11 Coordinator for a Foreign Animal Disease outbreak is the Sumner County Sheriff. *See Foreign Animal Disease Incident Specific Annex to this plan*

The ESF-11 Coordinator for Nutritional Services (determining nutrition assistance needs, obtaining food supplies and arranging delivery) and food and water supply safety and security inspection and verification of food safety, is Sumner County Health Department.

The ESF-11 Coordinator and the other agency representatives are critical members of the EOC Team and will work within the EOC structure described in ESF-5 Emergency Management.

Responsibilities

All Tasked Agencies will:

- Develop applicable standard operating procedures, guidelines and/or checklists detailing the accomplishment of their assigned functions.
- Use "plain text" when communicating by radio transmission during disaster situations.
- Provide ongoing status reports as requested by the Agriculture and Natural Resources Coordinator.
- When requested, deploy a representative to the EOC to assist with agriculture and natural resources activities.
- Maintain updated resource inventories of supplies, equipment, and personnel resources, including possible sources of augmentation or replacement.
- Document all costs and expenses associated with response and recovery activities taking care to clearly segregate disaster related work in the event that reimbursement becomes available from the state and federal government.
- Maintain up-to-date rosters for notifying personnel and 24-hour EOC staffing capabilities and provide this information to the Sumner County Emergency Management Department.
- Perform other emergency tasks as needed or assigned.

Animal Disaster Representative (ADR)

Following a catastrophic event, the Sumner County EOC will be activated and a member of the local veterinarian's group should report to the EOC. This person will become the Animal Disaster Representative (ADR) for the affected jurisdiction. The ADR will begin the activation process of those with responsibilities for securing and sheltering animals affected by the disaster.

The ADR is responsible for providing media releases to the Sumner County Public Information Officer regarding information to the public on sheltering options for displaced animals, safety precautions, etc.

Local Veterinarians

As the first line of response for emergencies and disasters affecting animals, local veterinarians are responsible for:

- Setting up local treatment centers for injured animals
- Assisting in the identification of found animals
- Maintaining lists of ranchers and livestock owners that have horse trailers available to haul large animals.
- Determining the high-density animal populations at risk.
- Keeping documentation of injuries and deaths of animals for insurance, SBA and statistical purposes.

Animal Owners

Animal owners are responsible for ensuring that their animals are vaccinated and tagged. They should keep a pet carrier on hand for small animals that may need to be evacuated. They should also prepare a disaster kit for their pets.

Public Feeding

Volunteer agencies, schools, hospitals and other institutions charged with providing mass feeding in the event of a disaster situation will coordinate their efforts through the Sumner County EOC and the Sumner County Health Department to ensure adequate supplies and safe locations for the public.

Administration and Support

Support

Requests for emergency assistance will be resolved at the lowest level direction and control facility with appropriate response resources capabilities. Unresolved assistance requests will normally flow upward from cities to the county, and/or field deployed command posts to the Sumner County EOC, from there they will be requested from responsible representatives in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), and as required to other states or the federal government for assistance support.

Agreements and Understandings

All agreements and understandings entered into for the purchase, lease, or otherwise use of equipment and services, will be in accordance with the provision of laws and procedures.

The Proclamation of a State of Local Emergency by the Sumner County Board of County Commissioners or a State Disaster issued by the Governor may suspend selected rules and regulations that affect support operations. The primary agency will determine the specific impact of the situation and inform the ESF group members.

Status Reports

The Primary Agency and the Sumner County Emergency Operations Center will maintain status of all outstanding assistance requests and unresolved ESF-related issues. This information will be summarized into periodic status reports and submitted in accordance with applicable operating procedures.

Expenditures and Recordkeeping

Each ESF agency is responsible for establishing administrative controls necessary to manage the expenditure of funds and to provide reasonable accountability and justification for federal reimbursement in accordance with the established guidelines.

The first source of funds for expenditures by agencies in response to an emergency, imminent disaster, or recovery from a catastrophic incident, is to be from local budget funds such as the County General Fund.

Critiques

Following the conclusion of any significant emergency event/incident or exercise, the primary agency representative will conduct a critique of the group activities during the event/incident/exercise.

Support agencies will provide written and/or oral inputs for this critique and the primary agency representative will consolidate all inputs into a final report and submit it to the Sumner County Emergency Management Director.