



TRANSPORTATION INCIDENTS COMMUNITY ANIMAL RESPONSE PRIORITIES (CARP)

Transportation incidents involving livestock are common events on highways, roadways, railways, and waterways across Texas. Traffic accidents may involve single or multiple vehicles and animals and can happen day or night. Community animal transportation preparedness is critical to effectively respond to and recover from these accidents.

While animal owners and transporters are ultimately responsible for the proper care and safety of animals they own or control, emergency management officials must include animal transportation response and recovery in their emergency planning efforts.

Foreign animal disease-related issues to consider in your local emergency planning:

OVERVIEW

1. Both people and animals will be involved in these accidents and will be trapped, injured, or killed.
2. Large numbers of livestock and poultry may be trapped, injured, or killed.
3. Distressed and injured animals will be unpredictable and dangerous.
4. Frightened or injured animals may stray or run onto roadways, causing additional accidents, injuries, or deaths.
5. Local first responders may not have the proper training or equipment to handle livestock.
6. Public safety and local animal infrastructure and resources will be stressed.
7. Animal carcasses will require proper disposal.
8. Local veterinary practitioners and clinics in your communities will be affected.
9. Do you include animal transportation incidents in your local emergency public information messages?

ANIMAL RESCUE AND HANDLING

- Are local communications officers trained in animal transportation response?
- Are local first responders trained in livestock and animal rescue and handling techniques?
- Do local first responders have the proper equipment to rescue, handle, and contain both small animals and livestock?
- Will first responders knock down or cut fences to contain rescued animals?
- Are pet rescue stickers promoted or distributed in your community?
- Do local first responders carry small animal oxygen masks?
- Are small animal and livestock rescue and handling procedures in place?
- Do you know how to contact your local TAHC Livestock Inspector?
- Is there a procedure in place to hold small animals and livestock that have escaped confinement?
- Have local purchasing authorities identified suppliers of animal feed, cages, temporary fencing and pens?
- How long will stray livestock be held before becoming county property?



- How will veterinary care be provided for rescued or injured animals?
- What is the surge capacity of local veterinary facilities?
- Improperly unloading and handling distressed, injured, or dead animals may injure or kill first responders.

CONTAINING AND SHELTERING ANIMALS

- What is the surge capacity of local animal shelter(s)?
- How will animals and owners be identified, notified, and/or reunited?
- Will uninjured animals be captured and held in a central location?
- How will animals be transported from the accident scene?
- Are animal transport vehicles locally available?
- Are local facilities available to serve as expedient livestock shelters?
- How will additional animal care and shelter supplies be acquired?
- Can local animal shelters operate during extended hours?
- Are there adequate local resources for both large and small animal sheltering?
- Is there a local animal volunteer and donation management plan in place?
- Do local veterinary facilities and animal shelter(s) have disaster and COOP operating procedures in place?

CARCASS DISPOSAL

- Is there a local animal carcass disposal plan in place?
- What carcass disposal resources are available in the community?
- Who is the local TCEQ representative?
- Is there a local licensed landfill that will accept animal carcasses?
- Is burial a practical option for your community?
- What type of heavy equipment is available locally for burial operations?

- Are qualified operators available to operate heavy equipment?
- Are soil conditions acceptable for burial?
- Are environmental conditions acceptable for burial?
- Are conditions acceptable for outdoor burning of animal carcasses?
- Are animal carcass transport vehicles available?

RESOURCES

- Texas Animal Health Commission: www.tahc.texas.gov
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/publications/rg/disposal-of-livestock-carcasses-rg-419.pdf>
- Texas Division of Emergency Management: <https://www.tdem.texas.gov/>

TAHC CONTACT INFORMATION

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