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EF 11 – Food and Agriculture

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EF 11 Tasked Agencies	
Primary Agencies	Department of Resource Management (Environmental Health Division)
Supporting Agencies	Shasta County Agricultural Commissioner University of California Cooperative Extension/Farm Advisor The Food Group Air Quality Management District Lassen National Park Shasta County Sheriff's Office Haven Humane Society
Primary State Agency	California Department of Food and Agriculture

1 Purpose and Scope

Emergency Function (EF) 11 focuses on activities related to food and agriculture, including coordinating provision of food, water, shelter, evacuation and transportation resources, and care for animals/livestock. It also provides information for human mass care shelters, food supply lists, emergency food assistance, and the California Animal Response in Emergency System Program. EF Annex 11 includes information regarding emergency response and recovery of impacts to animal and plant diseases and pests, as well as control and eradication of outbreaks of highly contagious or economically devastating livestock diseases and animal and vector control.

See EF Annex 6 for procedures for evacuating and sheltering household pets and service animals.

2 Policies and Agreements

2.1 Policies

The following policies are currently in place:

- California Food and Agricultural Code, Section 9101
- Code of Federal Regulations, Title 9, Section 161.4(f)
- None at this time.

2.2 Agreements

The following agreements are currently in place:

- MOU: Animal Care Preparedness during Disasters, Cal OEF and California Department of Food and Agriculture, January 31, 2007.
- 25-year contract in place with Haven Humane that ends in 2036.

3 Situation and Assumptions

3.1 Situation

- Numerous plant and animal diseases exist that could impact Shasta County (County) through natural, accidental, or intentional introduction.
- The County has significant numbers of animals, ranging from household pets to commercial livestock operations. The vulnerability of these animals in the event of a disaster or emergency can have impacts at both the individual and commercial levels, with the potential for long-range effects on the local economy.
- A significant emergency may deprive substantial numbers of local residents of access to safe and reliable supplies of food and water.
- An emergency may cause or be caused by the spread of a contagious disease through the food and water supply systems or from animals to people.
- Some animal diseases are very contagious (such as foot and mouth disease) and would be very difficult to identify, isolate, control, and eradicate. In addition, many agents are zoonotic, affecting both animals and people.
- Some plant diseases are highly infectious to other plants and can be very difficult to identify, isolate, control, and eradicate.
- Any displacement or evacuation of people from their homes may cause household pets and livestock to be placed at risk for food, shelter, and care.

3.2 Assumptions

- Livestock, wildlife, birds, plants, and crops may be affected by a disease or insect outbreak. Plants and animals may die of such an outbreak or need to be destroyed/depopulated.
- Production capability and/or value may become severely limited. Such an event could greatly impact the economic stability and viability of the County, State of California (State), and, possibly, the nation.
- The time between the reporting of a disease and its identification as an emergency is critical. A highly contagious disease could spread rapidly through a county and state via markets, product movement, and fomites (people, vehicles, etc.).

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- The County's resources would be rapidly depleted if the outbreak involved multiple facilities or large areas.
- Positive and prompt actions by local, state, and (possibly) federal authorities will be required in order to stop a highly contagious disease. Control and eradication of such a disease will involve many county, State, and federal agencies, not just those involved with agricultural activities.
- Some land owners, individuals, or groups may strenuously object to depopulation of animals or destruction of plants. Some people may not consider the threat of the disease spread valid and may take actions counterproductive to control and eradication efforts.
- First responders may not be familiar with the special conditions of an animal or plant health emergency. These include quarantine, bio-security precautions, personal protection equipment, decontamination, etc.
- Any prolonged power outage will place fresh or frozen food at immediate risk or render it unsafe.
- An earthquake may break water distribution pipes, contaminating potable water systems.
- Displaced persons will be cared for in emergency shelters. Food and water inventories of these shelters may be quickly depleted. Food banks and other charitable food sources may not have sufficient inventories to meet other food needs.
- Truck delivery of bulk supplies may be cut off. Distribution of non-local donated goods may not be possible.
- Emergency shelters will not have the facilities to care for household pets.
- Volunteers will want to help and can make a significant contribution to the effort.

4 Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Emergency Function 11 Actions by Phase of Emergency Management

4.1.1 Preparedness

- Develop plans, procedures, and checklists to support agriculture and natural resources activities.

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- Maintain an accurate roster and activation procedures of personnel assigned to perform agriculture and natural resources duties during a disaster.
- Maintain current food resource directories, including points of contact.
- Identify likely transportation needs and coordinate with appropriate agencies to meet these needs.
- Identify pet boarding facilities and private organizations that may provide emergency shelters for animals.
- Identify local agribusiness operators with equipment and personnel to assist with animal stop movement and quarantine activities.
- Establish an Animal/Agriculture Working Group and conduct meetings of this group as appropriate.
- Develop mutual aid agreements with government agencies, professional associations, and private agencies and organizations with personnel and equipment to support agriculture and natural resources response.
- Identify and schedule disaster response training for agriculture and natural resources personnel. Areas to be covered should include, but not be limited to, response protocol, Incident Command System (ICS), bio-security, personal protection, quarantine, access control, depopulation, disposal, decontamination, and potential human impacts.
- Ensure that all agriculture and natural resources personnel are trained in their responsibilities according to departmental plans and procedures.
- Participate in exercises and training to validate this annex and supporting plans and procedures.

4.1.2 Response

- Activate plans.
- Establish an Incident Command Post and activate the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- Establish communication between the EOC and Incident Management Team to determine the resources needed to support incident response and operations.
- Request appropriate declarations of emergency.

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- Issue quarantines and establish movement control procedures.
- Initiate bio-security measures.
- Develop an incident-specific communications plan.
- Establish response personnel support needs and coordinate local support capabilities.
- Identify existing internal, jurisdiction-specific resources available to support response and recovery operations.
- Contact key collaborating agencies.
- Obtain equipment and supplies needed for operations.
- Complete notifications of response personnel and agency directors.
- Develop an Incident Action Plan that includes at least the following functions: bio-security and decontamination, movement control and quarantine, depopulation and disposal, surveillance and epidemiology, personnel safety, demobilization and recovery, and inter/intra-agency communications. Develop public service announcements for release to the media.
- Identify appropriate locations for disposal, and obtain appropriate permits for animal depopulation and crop operations.
- With the help of local public works services, identify the locations of public disinfection sites and roadblocks.
- Conduct on-site operations.
- Provide assistance to established pet shelters.
- Move, detain, or restrict the movement of animals, equipment, products, and personnel as necessary to control and eradicate animal or plant disease.
- Manage and direct the 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.
- Provide situation reports to the command structure on the status of operations.
- Coordinate donations and volunteers wishing to assist in operations.

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- Respond to protestors who desire to interfere with or stop operations.
- Maintain records of all activities conducted, costs, and hours worked by paid and volunteer personnel.
- Ensure that communications lines are established and participants are clear on what actions need to be taken if a highly contagious disease or insect is suspected or confirmed.

4.1.3 Recovery

- Provide immediate assistance as needed to land owners affected by an animal/plant health emergency.
- Assist in decontamination efforts and ensure that cleanup is completed.
- Help maintain movement restrictions as required by local, State, and federal authority.
- Assist in issuing and tracking special permits and licenses.
- Work with producer groups to assist in recovery efforts.
- Submit necessary records and paperwork to local and State officials for tracking and reimbursing costs incurred by the County in handling the emergency.
- Participate in follow-up reports and critiques of the portion of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) related to animal/plant health emergencies, and make any necessary changes and improvements to the plan.
- Continue to render support when and where required as long as emergency conditions exist.
- Restore equipment and restock supplies to their normal state of readiness.
- Participate in after-action reports and meetings.
- Make changes to plans and procedures based on lessons learned.

4.1.4 Mitigation

- Provide surveillance for a foreign animal disease or an animal-borne poison or toxin that may pose a threat to animal-based industries, the economy, or public health.

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- 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.
- Organizations that will be operating shelters and providing food for the public during an emergency operation need to make arrangements with the owners of the facilities from which they intend to operate and possibly pre-stock some supplies.
- Conduct training and awareness campaigns to inform local veterinarians, game wardens, game biologists, and other animal professionals of the basic clinical signs of a highly contagious disease or other diseases or insects of concern.
- Develop a program to ensure that all personnel who may be involved in an animal/plant health emergency understand their responsibilities and expected actions.
- Provide training in bio-security for those involved in livestock and crop enterprises.
- Enhance and expand bio-security measures on farms, ranches, feedlots, markets, mills, etc.
- Develop or enhance public information regarding highly contagious diseases or insects and other diseases of concern for producers, brokers, transporters, and other parties who may be involved in raising, selling, buying, or transporting livestock, poultry/birds, wildlife, or agricultural products.

5 Concept of Operations

5.1 General

- The Shasta County Agricultural Commissioner and the University of California Cooperative Extension are the primary agencies responsible for coordinating agriculture and natural resources activities. Plans and procedures developed by the primary and supporting agencies provide the framework for carrying out those activities.
- Requests for assistance with agriculture and natural resources will be generated one of two ways: they will be forwarded to the County EOC or will be issued in accordance with established mutual aid agreements.
- The County EOC will provide guidance for the coordination of agriculture and natural resources, under the direction of the University

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of California Cooperative Extension and the Shasta County Agricultural Commissioner.

- Agriculture and natural resources support requirements that cannot be met at the local level should be forwarded to the State for assistance. If needed, federal assistance may be requested by the Governor.

5.2 Notifications

- The Director of Emergency Services will notify the Shasta County Agricultural Commissioner and supporting agencies of EOC activations and request that representatives report to the EOC to coordinate agriculture and natural resources response.
- As additional EOC staffing needs become apparent, other support and partnering agency personnel may be asked to report to the EOC to assist with agriculture and natural resources response.

5.3 Access and Functional Needs Populations

Provision of agriculture and natural resources services in the County will take into account populations with access and functional needs.

6 Emergency Function Annex Development and Maintenance

The Director of Emergency Services will be responsible for coordinating regular review and maintenance of this EF Annex. Each primary and supporting agency will be responsible for developing plans and procedures that address assigned tasks.

7 Supporting Documents

The following supporting documents are currently in place:

Shasta County

- None at this time.

State of California

- California Emergency Plan: EF 11 – Food and Agriculture

Federal

- National Response Framework: ESF 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources
- United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 9 Code of Federal Regulations

8 Appendices

None at this time.