



Animals in Disaster Working Group Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 20, 2024

The meeting commenced at 9:35 am.

I. In attendance:

American Red Cross: J. Winston.

California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association: S. Runyon.

Cal Animals Emergency Management Committee (Cal Animals): R. Soulsby.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW): D. Clifford.

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA): S. Brown, A. Jones, G. Schumaker.

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES): B. Blair, D. Chapman, J. Griffith, S. Halpain, J. Ortega, N. Richmond, G. Smith, L. Stanley.

California Department of Social Services (CDSS): F. Carrillo, E. Clinton, J. Dulay.

California Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (CAVMRC): J. Kerr.

California Community Animal Response Teams (Cal CART): C. Sonder, N. Tobias.

City of San Jose Office of Emergency Management: S. Sledge.

Nevada County Sheriff's Department, Humane Emergency Animal Response Team (HEART): S. Geckler.

Northern Valley Animal Disaster Group (NVDAG): K. Leyden.

Riverside County Animal Services: Lt. J. Huffman.

University of California, Davis, California Veterinary Emergency Team (UC Davis CVET): S. Buhl, W. Burke, A. Patterson.

UC Cooperative Extension: L. R. Rodriguez Costa, T. Schohr.

II. Stakeholder Updates (N. Richmond)

a. Cal OES Coastal Region

- Partnered with Santa Cruz County to do outreach and distribute emergency disaster material bags at Spanish Resource Fairs. Held once a month at the Watsonville agricultural fields.
- Hired regional Emergency Services Coordinator for Lake and Mendocino County.
- Preparing for Ingestion Pathway Exercise Dress Rehearsal June 24-28. Full-scale exercise will occur towards the end of July. Food and agriculture are a big part of the exercise because San Luis Obispo, Ventura, and Monterey counties

are involved due to the impact of agriculture in these areas (should there be a nuclear release from new Diablo Nuclear Power Plant).

b. Cal CART (C. Sonder)

- Worked on Rocky and Junes Fire from June 14-16.
- CART Summit dates are set for March 13-14, 2025. Dr. Sonder is requesting that any training or topic recommendations be sent to Claudia@calcarts.org.

c. NVDAG (K. Leyden)

- Activated by Butte County Animal Control for Rocky and June Fires.
- Activated by Sonoma County for Point Fire. Approximately 10 requests for service were made.
- Submitted PDF of news coverage.

d. UC Davis, CVET (A. Patterson, S. Buhl)

- Tracking CART deployment and assisting with after action report reporting.
- Having discussions with Don Glueckert, Cal OES, to understand options for regional mutual aid, and Don also contacted N. Richmond for further discussion.

e. Cal Animals (R. Soulsby)

- Worked with Animal Services that needed overnight staffing for sheltered animals for Sites Fire. Amador CART connected with Calaveras County to offer assistance. Working to get animals out when evacuations are lifted.

f. CDFA California Animal Response System (CARES) (S. Brown)

- Monitoring wildfires over Father's Day weekend.
- CARE Resource Library
The CARE Resource Library serves as a resource hub. The document includes all positions in one place, and the intent is to separate the positions into individual documents, and then a library of these resources will be put on the CARES website. In lieu of typing, levels are being used to avoid stringent review and approval process. This document has been reviewed by Cal OES, CDFA, and UC Davis CVET and is now being reviewed by Cal CART.

CARE Resource Library includes:

- Animal-related positions that are typically requested by the operational area during an incident.
- Resource request process, resource titles, detailed descriptions, links to tools and resources, and capabilities and training.
- Consideration of volunteer categories with nontechnical and technical volunteer organizations willing to perform less technical duties and responsibilities for the position.

- Efforts to align resources to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) resource typing to allow for potential Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) requests.
- Fourteen resource descriptions and direct links embedded in the document that take you directly to the resource.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Animal Sheltering During Disasters Webinar, June 12: CARES received significant interest from participants for the CARES temporary animal shelter assessment form.
- CONOPS Executive Summary has been finalized and approved and will replace current CONOPS document.
- Developed Livestock Ag Pass Program infographic that will be uploaded to CARES website along with list of counties that have adopted the program.
- Will be participating in earthquake tabletop exercise on July 9, hosted by the Health, Food, and Agriculture Resilience (HFAR) Directorate within the Office of Health Security, in Merced, CA. Twenty-one inland region counties have been invited as well as agricultural commissioners.
- Will be participating in Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant exercise.

III. Old Business

a. Ad Hoc Committees & Co-Chairs

Co-Chairs

1. Sonia Brown, CDFA CARES
2. Danielle Chapman, Cal OES Emergency Functions Planning

The Ad Hoc Committee members are as follows:

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Template

1. Shelly Halpain, Private Sector/NGO Office, Cal OES
2. Dr. Claudia Sonders, Napa CART/Cal CART
3. *Morgan Leon, Merced County
4. *Christina DeLeon, Solano County
5. *Mikaela Torres, Inyo County

(Indicates the volunteers that were established after the June 20th meeting.)*

Animal Resources/Training Standardization

1. Ryan Soulsby, Cal Animals
2. Naomi Tobias, Cal CART/Central California Animal Disaster Team (CCDAT)
3. Dr. Claudia Sonder, Cal CART
4. Stefanie Geckler, Nevada County Sheriff
5. Gary Johnson, Rescue Fire Animal Safety Training (ResQFAST)

Please give D. Chapman any known recommendations for the MOU Ad Hoc committee by Friday, June 21st.

- **Q:** Could you put together an email as to what you're looking for?
- **A:** Ideally, County Emergency Managers since they would be the ones involved in the MOUs.

- **Action ITEM:** D. Chapman will put together an email as to what Emergency Functions Planning Unit (EFPU) is looking for in candidates for the MOU Template Ad Hoc Committee.

IV. New Business (N. Richmond, Cal OES)

a. County Emergency Operation Plan Reviews

- Cal OES was tasked with reviewing all county Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) due to additional legislation that requires counties to provide criteria for large animal evacuation and care shelter unification in their animal annexes.
- N. Richmond is tasked with looking at large animal portion of animal annexes.
- Aiming to review at least 10 counties per year and send revisions and/or recommendations if needed.
- Thirty-three counties utilizing the ag pass program. A lot of counties are expanding past livestock and moving into agricultural areas.
- We can only recommend to counties to update their animal annex.
 - Q: Where can I find the legislation on recommending counties to update their EOPs?

- **ACTION ITEM:** D. Chapman will include information on the legislation pertinent to the group with the minutes.

V. Roundtable Discussion

a. CVET: Updates (S. Buhl)

- Two-thirds of counties have been completed for outreach. Goal is to finish Southern and Inland regions.
- This year's focus has been training and working with response partners.
- With signed MOU with California Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (CAVMRC), we are collaborating on virtual tabletop exercises with their leadership walking through joint response capacities.
- Co-presented with CAVMRC and did a resource showcase of some of CVET's mobile equipment at MRC Coordinator Statewide Training Workshop held at Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) in May.

- Working together with CAVMRC towards a large joint exercise and discussion in Templeton, CA in August to run through resource showcase and discussion about how CVET will respond.
- Other trainings and conferences hosted and attended: Northern California Association of Equine Practitioners, North Sonoma County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Disaster Simulation Exercise, a train-the-trainer training, and the California Emergency Services Association (CESA) Conference.
- Dr. M. Ziccardi and Dr. A. Patterson were invited to present at British Animal Rescue and Trauma Care Association (BARTA).
- Will be participating at Pacific Veterinary Conference in July, San Francisco, CA.
- Local Assistance Grant: Received 15 applications. Able to fund a vast majority of applicants. Happy to report that CVET can support local CARTs to increase their capacity, equipment, and training.

b. Cal OES Inland Region (L. Stanley):

- New Deputy Director of Response: Ian Bastek, previously from the United States Coast Guard and will be giving direction on how response operations are being conducted.
 - **Q:** Is Cal OES Response Operations still transitioning from Web EOC to Salesforce?
 - **A:** For resource requests, yes – Cal OES has transitioned to Salesforce. We are still working on transitioning other boards.

c. CAVRMC (J. Kerr)

- Fifteen of CAVMRC group coordinators are attending joint exercise with CVET in August.

d. Cal OES Private Sector/NGO Office (S. Halpain)

- Working to offer Donations, Management, and Volunteers Training Course locally. Course covers topics such as donations management, cash donations, position typing, and impromptu volunteers.
- Volunteer Donations and Management Guidance has been approved and will be posting on their webpage.

e. CDSS (E. Clifton)

- Shared link to AB 781 Legislation, and the FEMA Shelter Guide is also referenced in the legislation as one of the guiding documents which helps to understand the intent of the bill.

This meeting adjourned at 10:40am.

Attached Information

FEMA Shelter Field Guide

CVET Coastal County Outreach Summary

[UC Davis CVET County Outreach Reports Webpage](#)

[CDFA CARES Local Government Temporary Emergency Animal Shelter Assessment Form](#)

[Bill Text: AB 781 Accessibility to Emergency Information and Services: Emergency Shelters: Persons with Pets](#)

[Bill Text: AB 580, SEC. 2. Section 8593.3.2, subd. \(b\)\(2\) - Large Animal Evacuations in County EOPs](#)